



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 20, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors, Supervisors, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, Health and Physical Education Teachers, and other school staff responsible for leading social and emotional learning efforts

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Launch of a New Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Course for School Leaders

The New Jersey Department of Education, in collaboration with the Social Emotional and Character Development Lab at Rutgers University, is excited to announce the release of a new online course, ***Brick by Brick: A Leader's Guide to Building SEL in Schools***. This course provides the foundational building blocks to support school leaders in deepening their understanding of SEL and how they can bring SEL into practice to foster learning environments where all students and staff can thrive.

SEL is essential in schools, as it helps students develop vital life skills such as goal setting, emotional regulation, building healthy relationships, and making responsible decisions. When SEL is integrated into both the curriculum and the broader school environment, it fosters a supportive atmosphere that enhances academic achievement, reduces behavioral issues, and strengthens connections among students and staff. Ultimately, SEL equips students to navigate challenges both in and out of the classroom, laying the foundation for long-term well-being and success.

Course Overview

- This **no-cost**, asynchronous course is designed for current and aspiring New Jersey school leaders interested in effectively implementing SEL within their schools or districts.
- It consists of five core content modules, each approximately 1.5 hours in length.
- Each module features diverse learning activities, such as readings, videos, reflections, and quizzes, to reinforce concepts and gauge understanding. Participants will also gain access to practical resources and templates to successfully champion SEL efforts.
- Upon course completion, participants will receive a certificate and digital badge recognizing their leadership commitment to advancing SEL.

Registration Information

- Visit the [NJDOE's SEL Website](#);
- Scroll down to the *Brick by Brick* course section;
- Click on the blue drop down bar titled, "Accessing the Course"; and
- Follow the listed directions for **first-time users**.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group