



State of New Jersey  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution  
March 3, 2021

**Resolution in Recognition of Social and Emotional Learning Day in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, the last Friday in March has been designated internationally as the second annual SEL Day by SEL4US and the Urban Assembly; and

**Whereas**, social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions; and

**Whereas**, SEL supports individuals and communities coping with significant challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, to build protective factors for mental health and wellness, develop resiliency skills, seek help when needed, and exhibit care for fellow citizens; and

**Whereas**, SEL competencies develop throughout people's lives – from early childhood, through adolescence, and beyond – and are essential to success in schools, workplaces, homes, and communities; and

**Whereas**, a stronger and fairer New Jersey relies on citizens who exhibit the knowledge and skills encompassed in New Jersey's SEL competencies and sub-competencies, which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education continue to recommend school districts implement the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to promote safe, supportive, and challenging learning environments in schools; and

**Whereas**, SEL competencies enhance educators' capacity to navigate stressors, foster positive learning environments in any setting, and

**Whereas**, SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation; and

**Whereas**, SEL can be incorporated into different subject matters and seamlessly embedded in everyday instruction, including in-person and remote; and

**Whereas**, New Jersey schools, families, and communities must be consciously engaged to enhance the strength, depth, and pace of acquisition of SEL competencies; and

**Resolved,** that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education hereby recognize March 26, 2021, as SEL Day in New Jersey.

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Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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Kathy Goldenberg, President  
N.J. State Board of Education