



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

Whereas, the second Friday in March has been designated internationally as the fourth 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 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, SEL develops important protective factors that defend against mental health risks by promoting responsive relationships, emotionally safe environments, and skill development; and

Whereas, research indicates developing students' social-emotional skills leads to an increased ability to manage stress and depression and maintain better attitudes about themselves, others and school; and

Whereas, building SEL skills is an essential component to cultivating trauma-sensitive schools equipped to support the needs within school communities while also aiding in the promotion of positive childhood experiences; 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, schools, families and the wider community must be engaged to enhance the strength, depth, and pace of acquisition of SEL competencies; 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 and develop meaningful connections with colleagues and students; and

Whereas, SEL advances school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful instruction, and ongoing evaluation; and

Whereas, SEL can be incorporated into different subject matters and seamlessly embedded in everyday instruction; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education hereby recognize, March 10, 2023 as Social Emotional Learning Day in New Jersey.

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

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