



State of New Jersey  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution  
March 5, 2025

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

**Whereas**, the first week in March has been designated as National Social Emotional Learning Week by SEL4US and the Urban Assembly; and

**Whereas**, social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which all young people and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions; and

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

**Whereas**, SEL develops important protective factors that buffer 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, such as self-regulation, positive relationships, and problem-solving, is an essential component to cultivating trauma-informed learning environments, which can help mitigate the impact of trauma as well as promote protective factors for students to support them in their academic success; and

**Whereas**, a stronger and fairer New Jersey that continually moves forward, 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 Commissioner of Education continue to recommend school districts implement the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to promote safe, supportive, and rigorous learning environments in schools; and

**Whereas**, SEL competencies enhance educators' capacities 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, caring, and collaborative

relationships, meaningful instruction, and reflective evaluation; and

**Whereas**, SEL can be incorporated district-wide within schools at every level of support, as well as seamlessly embedded into different subject matters throughout everyday instruction; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education hereby recognize, March 3 through 7, 2025, as Social Emotional Learning Week in New Jersey.

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Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner  
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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