



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

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 our lives - from early childhood, through adolescence, and beyond - and are essential to success in our 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, SEL competencies enhance educators' capacity to navigate stressors, foster positive learning environments, and develop meaningful connections with colleagues and students; and

WHEREAS, SEL advances culturally responsive and inclusive educational systems where school-family-community partnerships establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships and rigorous and meaningful instruction; and

WHEREAS, SEL can be incorporated into different subject matters and seamlessly embedded in everyday instruction; and

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

WHEREAS, a stronger and fairer New Jersey relies on citizens that exhibit the knowledge and skills encompassed in New Jersey's own SEL Competencies and Sub-Competencies, which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills; and

WHEREAS, supporting the implementation of evidence-based SEL is a wise use of public resources, as there is strong evidence that SEL skills are linked to beneficial, long-term social and economic outcomes including improved cultural competency and employability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**MARCH 10, 2023**

AS

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY**

in New Jersey and encourage all community members to learn about and share their knowledge of the importance and impact of integrating evidence-based SEL into our schools, organizations and community.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of March in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR