



The New York State Education Department

Safe and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Center

News & Updates

Hello Safe & Supportive Schools,

This message arrives to you with hope that the New Year is off to a safe and strong start. The Safe and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Center is excited to resume its role in promoting a positive school climate for students, staff, and families. In light of many changes due to the pandemic, we will continue to do our best to support districts and schools across New York.

Each month we will share newsletter with upcoming events, tools/resources, and strategies we hope will support you and your work. We would also love to highlight and celebrate your successes. If there is an event, approach, or practice you would like us to spotlight, please contact us. The theme of this month's newsletter is Attendance and Engagement. Happy Reading!

Always with gratitude,
Halley
Project Director

Upcoming Events

- **February 2 (2:00-3:00)** National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments will host a webinar titled "*Embracing the Black Family in Schools: Cultural Competency, Teacher Diversity, and Family Engagement.*" [Register](#)
- **February 4 (1:00-3:00)** the **Community Schools TAC** will convene the *Chronic Absence Virtual Meeting.* [Register](#)
- **February 18 (11:30-12:45)** - UBuffalo's Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention will host a webinar titled, "*The Role of Teachers in Reducing Bullying in Schools.*" [Register](#)



In Case You Missed It

CASEL's webinar "[Understanding and Preventing Youth Bullying & Peer Victimization During the Pandemic](#)" with Dr. Dorothy Espelage from University of North Carolina.

CASEL Description: This webinar provides insight around bullying and peer victimization during the pandemic, who is most at-risk, and how we are using SEL to to reduce isolation and victimization.

Quick Reads

**A Novel Approach Improves
Attendance in Urban Schools:
Concentricity, *Attendance Works***



'Relationships matter': Remote learning places new hurdles in fight against chronic absenteeism, *K12 Dive*

COVID-19 led to significant challenges in chronic absenteeism. When other strategies were ineffective, some schools turned to coaching to engage students in virtual instruction.

[Read the article](#)

A brief interview with Hedy Chang, Attendance Works executive director recently interviewed executives of Concentric, David Heiber and Michael Gary, Jr., on their Student SEL Wellness Check Framework. They detail their approach to chronic absenteeism, which includes home visits, restorative practices and support for school-wide attendance teams."

[Read the article](#)



[SEL in an Unplanned Homeschool Setting](#) by Clark McKown (xSEL Labs) provides strategies for setting expectations, teaching SEL competencies, and motivating youth to succeed.

[Here Are 3 Top SEL Strategies That Can Help Improve Student Engagement Right Now](#) on *ED Week* details three SEL strategies: D.N.A. (Dreams, Needs, Abilities), Empathy Interviews, and community engagement using video-conferencing.



Compassion Resilience Toolkit for Leaders and Staff

[WISE Wisconsin](#) gathered tools and resources to build compassion and resilience within school teams. The toolkit includes activities, prompts for reflection, and circle scripts to engage staff in meaningful discussions that promote empathy and wellness.

[Get the Toolkit](#)

Do you have questions or need support?

For technical assistance or support with school climate improvement or Safe and Supportive Grant Program activities, please [contact us](#).

[Visit our Website](#)