



Social Emotional Learning & Equity

SEL IS KEY

Our schools and communities are facing a critical challenge to address racism and bias that harms all young people. Social emotional learning (SEL) is a key tool in creating greater equity. SEL teaches the necessary skills for self-awareness, understanding others, and taking action to change inequitable systems.



CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE-SUSTAINING PRACTICES



SEL and Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) practices work together to affirm identities, develop student abilities, and empower students as agents of social change. When implemented with intention, SEL builds capacity to reflect on bias, strengthens community action for healing, creates safe spaces for connection and agency, fosters academic excellence, and nurtures belonging for all in the school community.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

Equitable SEL draws on SEL competencies to create a safe and welcoming school climate that prioritizes ongoing adult SEL and diversity, equity, and inclusion. SEL should be integrated throughout all aspects of district and school policy and practice, including interactions between students and teachers, family and community engagement, and additional supports for students and families in order to create learning environments that are caring and just.



FAMILIES AS PARTNERS



Equitable SEL involves students and families as partners in planning, implementation, review, and improvement. When young people and families are meaningfully involved, strategies and programs become more relevant and engaging. Adopting a community school strategy within an Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS-I) offers a system in which schools can prioritize and align supports and services, emphasizing family engagement and strong community partnerships.

Social Emotional Learning & Equity

KEY POINTS

- SEL is crucial in promoting equity for young people and adults.
- SEL and CR-SE practices work together to develop student abilities and empower students as agents of social change.
- Equitable SEL requires a safe school climate that prioritizes ongoing adult SEL and implicit bias and equity training.
- Adopting a community school strategy within an Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Support prioritizes family engagement and strong community partnerships.
- [New York's revised SEL Benchmarks](#) reflect this priority



RESOURCES

- NYSED (2022). [New York State Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks](#)
- NYSED (2019). [New York State Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Framework](#)
- [NYS Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers](#) support New York schools in implementing community school strategies.
- BELE Network (2020). [Building Equitable Learning Environments \(BELE\) Framework](#)
- Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. District Resource Center, [SEL as a Lever for Equity](#)

RESEARCH

- The Education Trust (2020). [Social, Emotional, and Academic Development Through an Equity Lens](#)
- Jagers, Robert J., Alexandra Skoog-Hoffman, Bloodine Barthelus, Justina Schlund (2021). [Transformative Social and Emotional Learning: In Pursuit of Educational Equity and Excellence.](#)
- Schlund, Justina, Robert J. Jagers, and Melissa Schlinger (2020). [Emerging Insights: Advancing Social and Emotional Learning \(SEL\) as a Lever for Equity and Excellence.](#)

New York State Education Department
Office of Student Support Services
www.p12.nysed.gov/sssel