



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 supports individuals and communities who must cope with significant challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, to build protective factors for mental health and wellness, develop resiliency skills, seek help when needed and exhibit care for fellow citizens; 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 allow individuals to contribute meaningfully to society; and

WHEREAS, SEL competencies enhance educators' capacity to navigate stressors, foster positive learning environments in any setting and implement SEL with greater fidelity; and

WHEREAS, SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation; and

WHEREAS, SEL, which can be incorporated into different subject matters and seamlessly embedded in everyday instruction whether that instruction be in-person or remote; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey schools, families and our communities must be consciously 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 26, 2021**

**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.



*Philip D. Murphy*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fourth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.

*Philip D. Murphy*  
GOVERNOR