



SEL4NJ Statement of Principles on Equity and Anti-Racism

SEL4NJ stands with the Black community and Black Lives Matter movement in response to the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others before them. These events bring into focus the shameful history of systemic racism and violence toward people of color in this country and the resulting inequities that extend into our education system. We believe these events also illustrate the need for explicit development and engagement of social and emotional skills as antidotes to racism and systems of oppression. SEL4NJ is committed to supporting New Jersey communities in leveraging SEL to promote anti-racism and equity. We have the opportunity to transform our schools, communities, and societies by building on both our collective outrage and ongoing efforts to advocate for a path toward unity.

Framing anti-racism and equity as guiding principles for SEL implementation begins with SEL4NJ'S mission to advocate for and create schools that are safe, supportive, caring, and challenging environments for ALL students and staff and where all caregivers and the community are welcomed.

In its organization, SEL4NJ must provide a model for being intentional about including marginalized or oppressed groups to participate in decision-making and leadership opportunities in a meaningful and central way.

SEL4NJ commits to institutionalize structured opportunities for its leaders and members to regularly:

- **Promote** strategies using equity-informed SEL that schools can employ in support of anti-racism and disrupting existing systems of oppression.
- **Support** student and staff exploration of how one's identity, cultural lens, and biases shapes their vision for SEL, their behaviors, and the impact they have in education.
- **Connect** diverse groups inside and outside of schools to discuss and dismantle systems of power and oppression that operate in the education system.
- **Implement and provide ongoing support** for policies, programs, and practices that unpack privilege and foster social justice for all subgroups and individuals in the school community.

SEL4NJ will focus on the following practices as a **starting point**, to serve needs in the state related to equity-informed SEL:

- **Prioritize** the work of the *SEL4NJ Equity Task Force*.
- **Engage** members of marginalized groups in central roles related to all aspects of SEL4NJ and its work, including leadership, task forces, and decision-making.
- **Convene stakeholders** throughout the state to connect, discuss, learn and create strategic action plans that ensure anti-racism and equity are the guiding principles for SEL (broadly defined) implementation.
- **Partner with other organizations** committed to equity to find areas of intersection and opportunities to amplify impact.

For more information please visit SEL4NJ.org