



## **Social-Emotional Development Integration and Learning Cohort**

*Professional Development Grants for Teachers*

Seed Funding provided by the NY Jets

### **2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this competitive grant program is twofold. The first is to support and encourage an integrated approach to social-emotional and character skill development (which we refer to hereafter as SEL) in PK-12 classrooms and the second is to create a Professional Learning Network of teachers committed to an integrated approach to SEL. These goals will be achieved by providing: 1) funding for professional development to increase the capacity of individual teachers or groups of teachers to integrate SEL into their daily practice and 2) an ongoing forum for teachers to connect, learn, inspire and support one another as an endeavor to create school environments where all students and staff are to able thrive.

#### **Priority**

Integrated SEL is the main priority of this grant opportunity. Instead of a stand-alone SEL program, an integrated approach weaves social-emotional skill-building into the fabric of the school day. Research and experience have demonstrated that when adults can model their social-emotional skills and character and when SEL learning is integrated into academics and across the different facets of the school community not only are students happier to be part of the school community, academic achievement and the ability to deal with different emotional stressors increase. Examples of integrated approaches to SEL can be found at [SEL4NJ.org](http://SEL4NJ.org) (see SEL4NJ's Data Briefs on the Home Page).

Given the longstanding issues around inequities in schools across New Jersey exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, proposals that address how equity will be integrated and promoted will be given special consideration (See SEL4NJ Equity Statement).

#### **Background**

The Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for New Jersey (SEL4NJ) has received seed funding from the NY Jets to launch the “Social-Emotional Development Integration and Learning Cohort” professional development opportunity. Individual educators or teams of educators who are committed to advancing SEL in their schools are invited to apply to be part of the inaugural

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cohort, to participate in a professional learning network, and to receive grant funds. Grant funds are to be used solely for **professional learning opportunities** for educators and educational leaders.

SEL4NJ is a network of organizations and individuals in New Jersey that is committed to the importance of developing students' social and emotional competencies and character. The vision of **SEL4NJ** is for all students in New Jersey to attend schools that provide a culture and climate that is respectful, caring, challenging, engaging, inspiring, safe, and healthy. These schools are civic-minded and culturally responsive, promote educational equity, and help students and adults build social-emotional competencies and character. These schools also work to develop positive relationships for adults and students and connect them to the school, their community, and each other.

### **Funding Details**

SEL4NJ will award grants of \$1,500 for professional learning opportunities related to SEL for teachers currently employed in a New Jersey school. Teams of applicants are eligible for grants of \$2,500.

### **Focus Areas**

Professional learning opportunities related to SEL include, but are not limited to, training, workshops, courses, or coaching that address at least one of the following:

- Culturally Sustaining, Strengths-Based Approaches
- Community-Focused Approaches (e.g. school, parents/caregivers, neighborhood)
- Standards-Based Approaches
- Systemic Supports

SEL initiatives can facilitate and promote supportive classroom and school climates; restorative practices; youth voice and agency; authentic school and family/community partnerships; and the well-being of adults and children.

### **Eligibility**

Any educator or team of educators in NJ is eligible to apply, inclusive of public, private, parochial, and charter schools. Teams can be within or across schools in a district. For instance, teams can consist of: 1) a group of educators from a single school, or 2) a group of educators from multiple schools in a district (e.g. 3 educators from 3 schools in one district).

### **Evaluation Criteria**

In this pilot year, applications will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Initiative integrates and promotes equity.
- Clear statement of goals and anticipated outcomes for students, classroom, or teaching.

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- Plan for dissemination of learnings to school and/or community stakeholders.
- Detailed explanation of how learning will be sustained.
- Experience of professional development partner(s) in SEL and SEL-related fields (such as mental health, wellness, and social work).

### **Grant Requirements**

- Participation in two *Integration and Learning Cohort* Network meetings in early 2022 and June 2022.
- Document and share learnings with the *Integration and Learning Cohort*.

### **Application Instructions**

The application portal will open on November 2, 2021. Applications, including supporting documents, must be submitted by December 10, 2021, 11:59 p.m. EST, using our online system: <https://bit.ly/SEL4NJSILC>.

If you are interested in applying and have any questions about eligibility or requirements, please contact us at [grants@sel4nj.org](mailto:grants@sel4nj.org).

### **Application Checklist**

- Download and complete the [Grant Application](#)
- Please answer the questions using the text boxes on the form (note: there are word limits).
- Save the application with your name and school
- Download and fill out the [Budget Form](#). Save the budget form.
- Create and have your principal sign a letter of support - [download template](#).
- Save the principal letter.
- Upload the completed application, signed principal letter, and budget to this [Link](#)

### **Key Dates**

<b>November 2021:</b>	RFP Announcement and Application Portal Opens
<b>December 10, 2021:</b>	Application Deadline
<b>January 17, 2022:</b>	Announcement of Grant Awards
<b>February 2022:</b>	Integration and Learning Cohort Convening
<b>February - June 2022:</b>	Implementation of Projects
<b>June 2022:</b>	End of Year Meeting/Integration and Learning Cohort Convening

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## **SEL4NJ Equity Statement**

By equity, SEL4NJ is referring to a vision in which all stakeholders (students and staff) have the support needed to both access opportunity and achieve mastery. Equity requires understanding and meeting local needs through educational policies, programs, and practices that ensure high expectations and positive, measurable outcomes for all stakeholders.

For this professional learning and networking opportunity, integrated approaches to social-emotional and character skill development may take different forms that intentionally recognize and value the diversity of persons and groups within society, and that fully honors individuals' identities as they are shaped by race, ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status, among other characteristics. At the same time, through participation in equity-informed professional learning and integration opportunities within a diverse and inclusive cohort experience, educators will develop a critical awareness of how SEL and related skills are culturally infused. Through the inclusion of diverse perspectives and opportunities for critical self-reflection, participants will be equipped to promote equitably designed and deliver opportunities for social-emotional and character skill development for all community stakeholders.

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