



Building a Culture to Help Students Succeed in School and Life

2017 NJSBA Workshop

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Program Partners



Sustainable Jersey for Schools



- Modeled off of the municipal program
- Free and voluntary
- NJ based and consensus driven
- School level certifications but requires School Board and district level support



Sustainable Jersey Program Participants



Municipal



Schools

Municipal
445 Communities
201 certified

Schools
278 Districts
691 Schools
194 schools certified

Why Participate?



- Framework for action
- Access to resources
 - Tools, technical support, training
 - Sustainable Jersey Grants Program
- Positive impact on school community
- Move towards a sustainable future
- Recognize and reinforce progress



RSS

Sign in or sign up.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE

one school at a time

ABOUT

ACTIONS & CERTIFICATION

EVENTS & TRAININGS

GRANTS & RESOURCES

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

SUPPORT US

REGISTER



APPLY TO BE A POWERSAVE SCHOOL
15 schools will get free support & resources to educate students about energy efficiency

HEADLINES

34 Sustainability Grants Awarded to New Jersey Schools
APR 25, 2017

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Announces Availability of \$120,000 to Fund Health and Wellness Actions in Schools
APR 13, 2017

ABOUT SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter

PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS

View the map of participating districts and schools, and register your district or school today! View



UPCOMING EVENTS

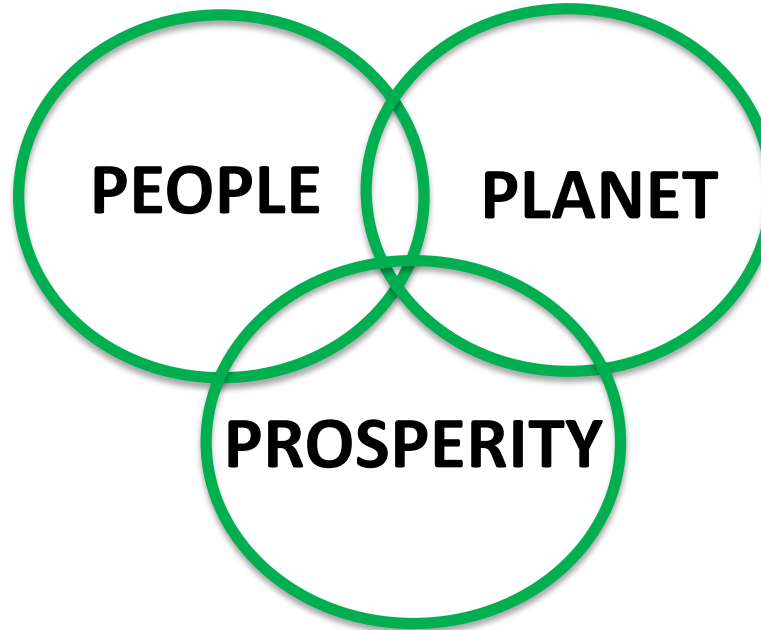
Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies
Duke Farms
AUG 03, 2017 - 08:30 AM TO



Certification Action Categories

PEOPLE

- Diversity & Equity
- Food & Nutrition
- Healthy School Environments
- Safe Routes to School
- **School Culture and Climate**
- Student & Community Outreach
- Student & Staff Wellness



Components of Sustainability

PROSPERITY

- Student Learning
- Energy Efficiency
- Innovative Projects
- iSTEAM
- Leadership & Planning
- Learning Environment

PLANET

- Climate Mitigation & Renewable Energy
- Green Cleaning
- Green Design
- Green Purchasing
- School Grounds
- Waste Management & Recycling



Building a Culture to Help Students Succeed in School and Life

New Jersey School Boards Association

Wednesday October 25, 2017

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

Our Mission

To ensure all children have the solid foundation and life long skills needed to thrive socially, emotionally, physically and academically.

UNITED WE FIGHT.
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The Big Question

How do we create school environments that set all kids up for success in school and life?

Goals of the Session...

- Understand the research supporting why social-emotional skills and culture and climate are so important to school and student success.
- Learn what school boards and schools can do to encourage and support efforts to create a positive school climate where all have strong social-emotional skills.
- Learn what is important to have in-place for success and for sustainability.
- Introduction to the first two Sustainable Jersey for School Culture and Climate Actions

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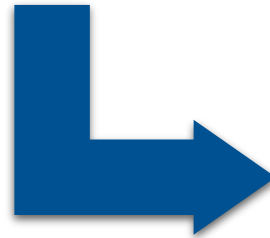
Fundamental Assumptions....

You can't have....

A positive school environment without a healthy and positive school culture and climate.



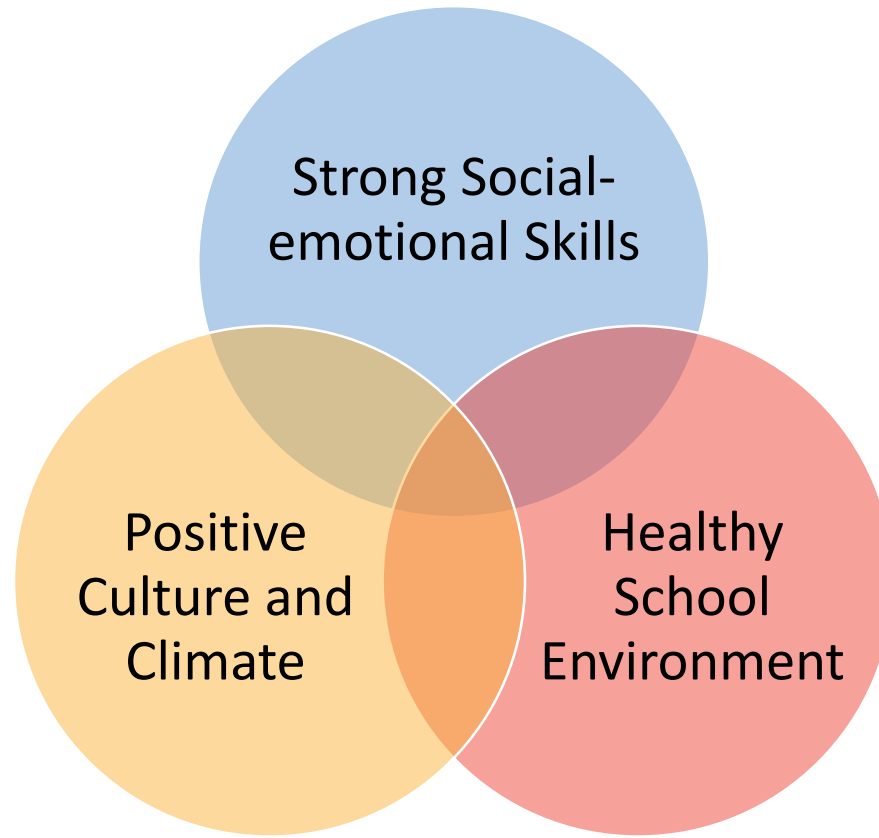
a healthy and positive school culture and climate without having socially and emotional competent students and staff.



a healthy and positive school culture and climate without a well-managed schoolhouse and student engagement.

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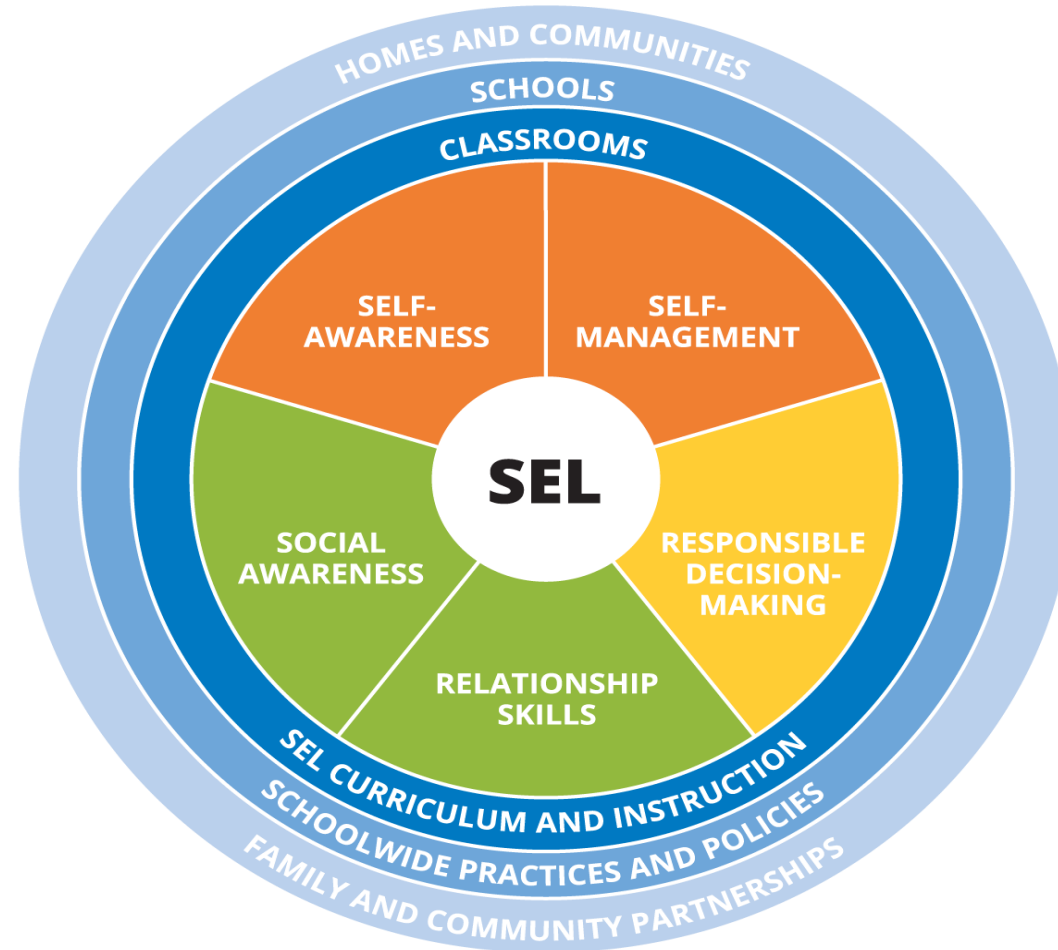
When emotions are churning, they can't be learning!



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UNITED WE WIN.

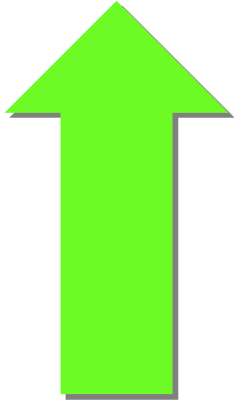
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CASEL: 5 Core Competencies



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Science links SEL to student gains

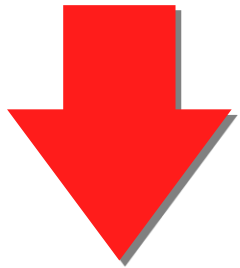


- Social and emotional skills
- Improved attitudes about self, others, and school
- Positive classroom behavior
- 11 percentile-point gains on standardized tests

Source: Durlak, J.A., Weissberg, R.P., Dymnicki, A.B., Taylor, R.D., and Schellinger, K. (2011).

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Addressing SEL reduces risks



- Conduct problems
- Aggressive behavior
- Emotional distress

Source: Durlak, J.A., Weissberg, R.P., Dymnicki, A.B., Taylor, R.D., and Schellinger, K. (2011).

Soundbites

Standardized test scores increase by 11%

Every \$1 in SEL invested we get back \$11

Focus on SEL helps with a successful implementation of the Common Core

22% of state budget is spent on consequences of violence and addiction....1% on prevention

SEL helps kids regulate emotions

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Soundbites continued...

**SEL helps ensure kids
will be college,
career and life ready!**

**2 out of the 4
Danielson
domains focus
on social and
emotional skills**

**Standardized
test scores for
high risk kids
increase by
17%**

**Anxiety among
kids is at an
unprecedented
level – SEL skills
and a healthy
culture and climate
help kids cope**

**SEL helps
reduce
truancy**

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Keys to Success

- Staff training
- Developmentally and culturally aligned
- Embedded in the everyday life of the school
- Integrated across settings
- Students are given amply opportunities to practice Social-Emotional skills

How to begin creating a positive environment that is sustainable and where all will succeed

Understand what your needs are

- Data, data and more data
- What do you have in place
- What are the issues/obstacles

Understand what you want to create / achieve

- What is your vision
- What are your core values

Ensure sustainability

- Create a coordinating body
- Create infra-structure

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ACTIVITY



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School Culture and Climate

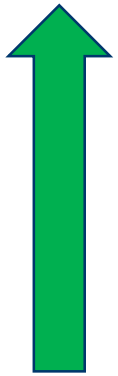


Sustained Positive School Climate

Key Drivers

- Respect
- Friendship & belonging
- School connectedness
- Student engagement/student voice
- Management & organization
- Discipline policy
- Appraisal & recognition of staff
- Quality of professional interaction among staff & administration

Sustained positive school climate is associated with....



- ✓ Improvements in students' self-esteem and self-concept.
- ✓ Effective risk prevention and health promotion efforts.
- ✓ Effective violence prevention in general and bullying prevention efforts in particular.
- ✓ Increased student learning and academic achievement..
- ✓ Increased student graduation rates.
- ✓ Improvements in teacher retention.
- ✓ Mitigating the negative impact of the socioeconomic context on academic success.



- Reductions in substance abuse and psychiatric problems.
- Decreased student absenteeism.
- Decreased rates of student suspension

Source: Thapa, Cohen, Guffey, Higgins-D'Allesandro (2013)

The Jumbled Schoolhouse

Maurice Elias, Ph.D.

Many Schools Look Like This Image:
The "Jumbled Schoolhouse" (Elias)



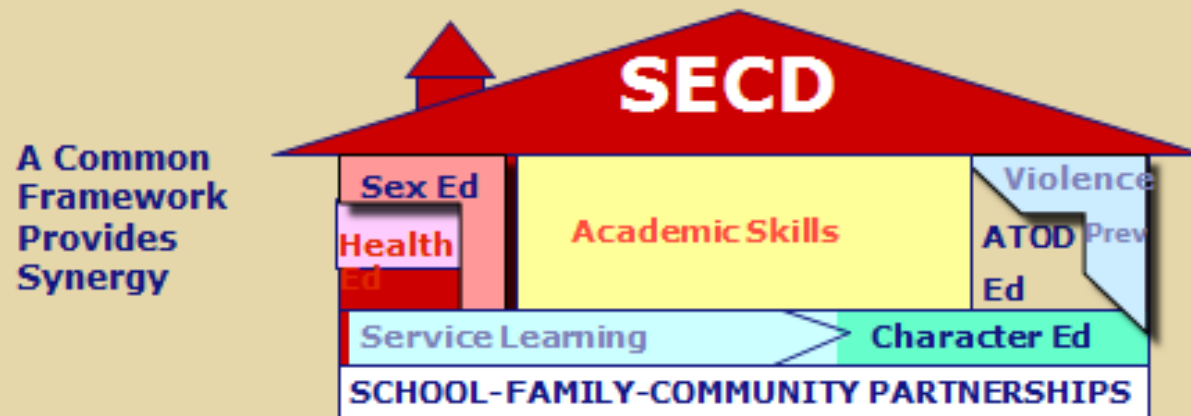
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The ‘Un-jumbled Schoolhouse’

Maurice Elias, Ph.D.

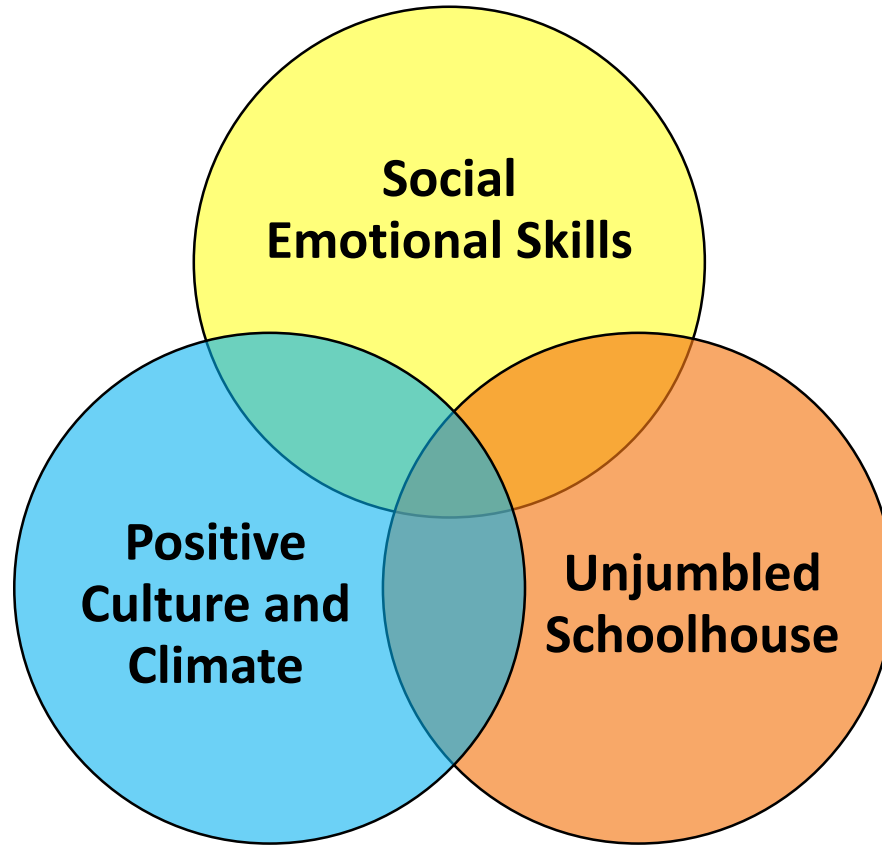
A Coordinated Framework Provides Synergy:
The “Unjumbled Schoolhouse” (Elias)



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An Environment Where All Children Can Thrive



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What Makes the Difference

Intentional Focus

Data-Driven Approach

Infra-structure

Effective Program Implementation

Professional Development

**On-going Professional Learning
Community**

What Can School Leaders Do to Support the Efforts

- Make clear that a focus on school climate is important and valued
- Adopt policies that reinforce and are consistent with the core values of the school
- Ensure school and teams have the resources needed to move forward (time, subs, professional development)
- Be supportive

School Culture & Climate Actions



- School Culture & Climate Needs Assessment
- Inclusive Environments Where All Can Thrive
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum Integration



Sustainable Jersey Action Outline

Culture and Climate Needs Assessment 20 Points School

Why is it important?

Who Should Lead and Be Involved in this Action?

Timeframe

Project Costs and Resource Needs

What to do, and how to do it ("How to")

What to submit to earn points for this action

Spotlight: What NJ Schools are Doing

Resources

 Print Action Description

 Download PDF Version

A positive school culture and climate is integral to students' academic success and their social, emotional, and physical well-being. This program action awards points for completing a comprehensive assessment of a school's culture and climate which is the critical first step in school improvement efforts. Doing a comprehensive school culture and climate assessment ideally includes an inventory of all programs and practices aimed at improving school culture and climate as well as students' health and social-emotional and character development. This exercise provides opportunities to see how well schools are addressing culture and climate through programming, where there are gaps and overlaps in program offerings, how culturally appropriate and sensitive the programs and practices are to diverse students, and which students are or are not being engaged in the efforts. From here, the school can address how to better support underserved populations and discuss what might be added to engage more students, as well as celebrate the most successful and robust activities already addressing students' social-emotional learning and overall climate and health of the school.

In addition to completing an inventory of offerings that exist in the school, schools need to conduct a survey of student, staff, and parent perceptions of school culture and climate. In New Jersey there are three recommended survey instruments that can be used for this purpose. These include the New Jersey State Climate Survey from the NJ Department of Education, the School Culture and Climate Initiative Survey, and the Climate Survey from the National School Climate Center. (Information on these is found in Resources below.) Ideally a cross-functional school team should select the instrument and develop the

School Culture and Climate Needs Assessment

- Inventory of Programs
- Culture and Climate Survey
- Focus Groups
- Community Data
- Data Analysis
- Strengths and Opportunities
- Sharing of Results with School Community



Inclusive Environments Where All Can Thrive

- Find ***a home*** within the school for this task and obtain approval and endorsement leadership.
- ***Conduct an inventory of activities, programs and practices*** including identifying what students are being served and what students are underserved (identifying the gaps).
- Look at ***school collected data*** to help identify possibly hidden groups of isolated students and/or parents
- Conduct ***focus groups*** with students (and parents if appropriate) to further clarify the needs of identified groups of students (parents) and what type of support students (parents) would appreciate and benefit from.
- Create a ***comprehensive plan*** for addressing the gaps/needs identified during the inventory and focus groups.
- Secure any funds required for ***Professional Development and trainings***





Social - Emotional Learning Curriculum Integration (SEL)

- Provide an overview of a sample unit of study that integrates the New Jersey SEL competencies across the subject area that includes:
 - The New Jersey Student Learning Standards and SEL Competencies that are addressed in the unit
 - The Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) that are aligned to the standards (alignment occurs when standards are unpacked and the learning goals reflect the content and level of cognitive thinking required to master the standard)
 - Summative assessments (end of unit assessments) are used to determine mastery, and are tightly aligned to the unit SLOs
 - Aligned formative assessment methods that differentiate instruction and ensure each student's progress in meeting each unit SLO
- Provide samples of student work associated with the unit



New Funding Opportunity



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program
Funded by PSEG

2018 Application Information Package

Announcement Date:	Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Application Due Date:	Friday, February 9, 2018
Link to Application:	On the Grants and Resources section of sustainablejerseyschools.com

Questions: Email grants@sustainablejersey.com or call Kaitlyn Vollmer on 609-771-3189. General questions regarding the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program should be directed to schools@sustainablejersey.com or Veronique Lambert on 609-771-3427.

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1

- New grants cycle fund by PSEG announced
- Applications due Feb. 9
- \$10,000 Project Grants
- \$2,000 Green Team Grants
- Half of Participating Districts have received at least one grant!



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Q & A



For More Information

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How to become a socially inclusive school (Elias, 2014)

Suggestions

- 1) Start with one concrete step with those who are interested
- 2) Remember student empowerment/voice



How to become a socially inclusive school (Elias, 2014)

Suggestions continued...

- 3) Educate staff and students about the ethical importance
- 4) Incorporate into the mission & value statement of the school
- 5) Infuse into the fabric & everyday life of the school



How to become a socially inclusive school (Elias, 2014)

Suggestions Continued...

- 6) Inclusive activities should be meaningful and all students given the chance to contribute
- 6) Shared leadership
- 7) Adopt a continuous improvement model
- 8) Administrative support

