



State of New Jersey
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution
August 2, 2017

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING
COMPETENCIES FOR NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, students come to school with a variety of experiences, barriers and abilities that may impact readiness to learn; and

WHEREAS, schools that foster positive climates are characterized by people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe; students and staff [that] are held to high expectations; and **students are provided with** access to supportive programs and initiatives to assist [students] **them** to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, social and emotional learning supports a positive school climate, reduces barriers to learning, increases school connectedness and is critical to success in school and life; and

WHEREAS, social and emotional learning skills, knowledge and attitudes can be acquired and are an integral part of education from preschool through Grade 12; and

WHEREAS, social and emotional learning is necessary for students to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that social and emotional learning increases students' attendance; decreases conduct problems; improves grades and test scores; and reduces at-risk behaviors; and

WHEREAS, schools that embed and teach social and emotional learning skills across all subject areas facilitate students' academic success and social development; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education and stakeholders from across the State collaboratively developed the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to support school districts in their efforts to build and deepen positive school climates; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Education and the New Jersey State Board of Education recommend school districts implement the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to promote safe, supportive and challenging learning environments.

Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

Arcelio Aponte, President
N.J. State Board of Education