SEL Fellows: Champions for Students, Schools, and Communities Nationwide

August 2022–June 2023

Hosted by The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

Education leaders in U.S. school districts and regional offices of education: We invite you to join us.

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About CASEL

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been a nonprofit leader of the SEL movement since first introducing the term more than two decades ago.

All our efforts are unified by a commitment to evidence-based SEL to support all students’ learning and development. As the trusted source on SEL, CASEL evaluates programming, curates research, informs legislation, and partners on implementation nationwide to ensure every student receives the education they deserve.

For more than a decade, CASEL has been in deep partnerships with school districts to make SEL central to teaching and learning in complex education systems nationwide. The SEL Fellows Academy builds on the success of our field-tested model to offer a unique opportunity for rural, suburban, and urban communities to strengthen their SEL expertise in collaboration with one another. In addition, fellows will have access to a broad network of SEL leaders and innovators leading SEL across the country.

This is an opportunity that will not only benefit participants, but their entire communities.

“It's really helpful to have an understanding of what's going on in other parts of the country. I use that data and that feedback to help me craft the narrative I need to be putting in front.”

— Inaugural SEL Fellows Academy Participant
The Opportunity: The SEL Fellows Academy

Whether you have been leading SEL in your community for years or are just beginning the work, this is your virtual SEL leadership academy! Being selected as an SEL Fellow offers you years of support and connections.

Launched in 2020, the SEL Fellows Academy provides a deepening of SEL practice at a personal, interpersonal, and institutional level. It is for those employed by a school district or regional office of education in the United States who are passionate about SEL and responsible for leading SEL in their communities.

This opportunity benefits the entire district and regional office community. With a new or enhanced plan for SEL implementation, a capstone project to benefit students, and continued access to the broad CASEL network, SEL Fellows will have expert knowledge and guidance to share with their communities.

KEY BENEFITS

The leadership experience pairs the focus on SEL expertise with a supportive community of practice to help you advance SEL implementation for equity and excellence.

**Build capacity for SEL leadership**
Engage in leadership practices and coaching strategies and apply them to your unique context to address critical problems of practice.

**Create or enhance an SEL action plan**
Develop an implementation plan with localized action strategies to help sustain your work.

**Develop a capstone project**
Address an SEL implementation need in your community that calls you to be a visionary and engage in transformational leadership where you make a positive difference for students and adults in your educational organization.

**Join a community of practice**
Foster long-term commitment and sustainability through regular opportunities to learn from a growing network of peers. Fellows will be lifelong members of the CASEL community with opportunities for continued collaboration with one another.

**Influence nationwide SEL adoption**
Create, test, and refine practical approaches for SEL to address challenging issues and share your experiences nationally.

Questions? Email: SELFellows@casel.org
2022-2023 Cohort of the SEL Fellows Academy

Each cohort of up to 50 district or regional SEL leaders participate in a 10-month program August 2022–June 2023, engaging in workshops, mentorship, coaching consultancies, and more.

“Hearing the stories from other leaders that have already engaged in this work was so valuable. Their authenticity was greatly appreciated, and I feel like I was able to capture new info to apply to my own work.”
—Inaugural SEL Fellows Academy Participant

THE EXPERIENCE

The SEL Fellows experience is designed to embody the principles of SEL, weaving together the theory and the practice. You will build your knowledge of SEL theory and practice, adult SEL, SEL for students, and continuous improvement to enhance the work that is most relevant to you.

Your time with us will include three dedicated hours per month* for community gatherings:

• **Cohort Learning Community:** Nine full group workshops (One/month). The sessions will focus on your own SEL leadership development and dive deep into the CASEL framework for implementation. This will include opportunities to connect with the cohort, with district and regional leaders from across the country, as well as national leaders on areas of interest in the SEL field.

*The content discussed is reinforced through an average of three dedicated hours per month to work on assignments.*

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You will have opportunities for collaboration and connection with others:

- **Journey Trios**: Monthly collaboration with a group of three SEL Fellows who share a common goal, district structure, and/or interests. Collaboration with Journey Trios allows for honest conversations to enhance peer learning that will move your practices forward. These connections can occur whenever convenient and are a key source of sustenance and inspiration for our Fellows.

- **CASEL Mentor**: Two one-on-one mentor consultations with an SEL expert from the CASEL community. In the past, mentors have been CASEL leadership members, school district leaders, or national experts in research and practice.

- **Expert Guidance**: Ongoing access to a team of CASEL experts and high-quality resources to support your ongoing work on SEL implementation.

- **Learning Hub platform**: A digital community platform is offered exclusively to SEL Fellows to connect with the cohort and CASEL. It includes curated resources, discussion boards, and recordings and is updated regularly in response to questions and conversations among fellows.

You can experience ongoing connection and support:

- **Superintendent Engagement**: Opportunities for Fellows’ superintendents to connect via a superintendent roundtable and to attend the capstone project presentations with a small group of SEL Fellows.

- **Alumni network**: All SEL Fellows become part of a CASEL alumni community who have the opportunity to connect quarterly via speaker series and themed discussion groups, as well as an online hub to share what they are working on and get support. You will get to know our wonderful inaugural cohort of Fellows, as well as those who will follow you.

Questions? Email: SELFellows@casel.org
The CASEL Team for the SEL Fellows Academy

Karen VanAusdal
Senior Director of Practice
SEL Fellows Academy Co-Director

Mary Hurley
Senior SEL Consultant
SEL Fellows Academy Co-Director

Bloodine Barthelus
Director of Practice Innovations

Jessica Bernstein
SEL Implementation Advisor

Erin Bogan
Director of Evaluation Research

Deidre Farmbry
Senior SEL Consultant

Duncan Meyers
Assistant Director of Continuous Improvement

Sherrie Raven
Director of SEL Implementation

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THE TAKEAWAYS

At the end of the 10-month engagement, each SEL Fellow will conclude the engagement with:

• A deepening of their own leadership skills and the knowledge and practice to lead systemic change for SEL.
• A customized action plan that will inform and guide SEL efforts for their school district or community going forward.
• A capstone project that addresses a specific SEL implementation need in their district or region and is ready for immediate implementation.
• Connection as alumni to a national community of SEL leaders from across the Fellows and CASEL community.

“The experience is validating. I think it’s validating to hear the struggles of others and have a co-contextual empathy for it. I really love the equity lens and the infusion of it into the practice of gathering and meeting together. I think that’s something that I’m trying to do more of [in my district].”
— Inaugural SEL Fellows Academy Participant
Apply to Join the 2022-2023 Cohort

We are eager to have you join this powerful community. The 2022-2023 application of interest is open from February 7-April 1, 2022, and will be available online at:

Register Here

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

• Employed by a school district or regional office of education in the United States
• Responsible for leading SEL in their community

The cost is $4,500 per person for the 10-month engagement. Each cohort will accept up to 50 people and be limited to one representative per school district or community.

Applicants will be notified by early May 2022. Please note, the application of interest requires a letter of support from your supervisor or district superintendent.

“I love having this community of people and access to [CASEL staff]. I don’t know how I would have even dreamed of doing even the small pieces that I’m doing right now. I just really keep thinking as I’m going through this fellowship of how many other people there are like me out there.”
— Inaugural SEL Fellows Academy Participant

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Hear from our Inaugural Cohort

Join us for an information session on February 2, 2022, from 7:00-7:45 pm ET to:

• Learn more about the 10-month program
• Hear from SEL Fellows about why they joined
• Ask any questions you have about the experience

Sign up here to attend

If you can’t attend live, register to receive the recording.

Submit your application of interest today and join this community of SEL leaders.

“My mission as a Fellow is to create conditions for ALL students to be empowered to thrive in school and in life.”

"My mission as a Fellow is to create an environment where all students and staff feel seen and heard and are internally motivated to achieve their highest goals.”

"My goal as a Fellow is to collaboratively create systems of support, care, and opportunity that empowers each student to courageously pursue their goals and dreams.”

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