



SEL Fellows: Champions for Students, Schools, and Communities

Annual 10-Month Virtual Engagement

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.

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 almost three 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. 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.

This is an opportunity that will benefit participants, as well as their entire communities.

"[I] leave sessions feeling motivated, hopeful, and optimistic. This has 'filled my bucket' for my own wellbeing and for how I can support the well-being of others."

— 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 with seed funding from the Allstate Foundation, 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 each Fellow's 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. Upon completion of the Academy year, Fellows alumni are invited to bring their teammates into the CASEL learning community, joining our communities of practice to deepen and sustain their SEL work in partnership with districts and regions across the country.

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. It also includes opportunities to attend CASEL-hosted events throughout the year.



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.

"The completely authentic collaboration. There is room for ALL of us at the table doing this work."

"Connecting with others who are experiencing similar success and barriers."

"Reinforcement that a communal approach is the path to this human work."

"Learning from other leaders because we are all at different places in our journey."

Annual Cohort of the SEL Fellows Academy

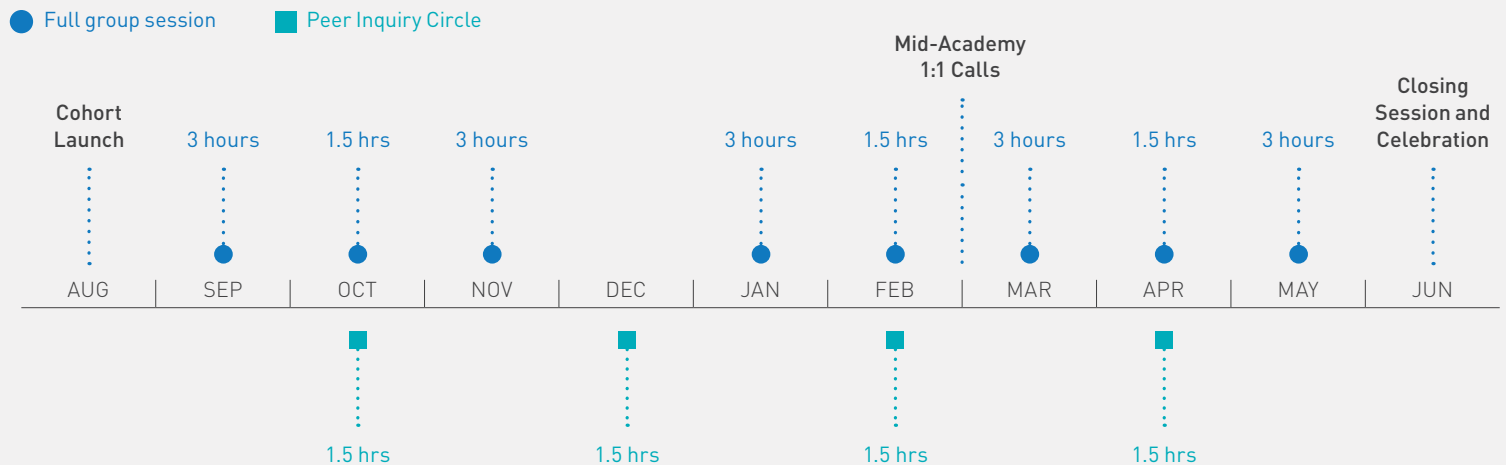
Each cohort of up to 45 district or regional SEL leaders participate in a 10-month virtual program that launches in August of every year, and includes engagement in workshops, mentorship, coaching consultancies, and more.

"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."

— 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. *Please note, sessions are held during the work day.*



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, as well as renowned 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.*

- **Peer Inquiry Circles:** Small-group coaching consultancies (every other month) where you will engage with other Fellows and a CASEL facilitator to tackle the unique dilemmas and opportunities of leading SEL across your organization.

"The peer inquiry circles, I think, have done the most for my well-being in that there are strategic small-group conversations with people that I've become very connected to. And it's a new role and I don't have all the answers, so I'm able to say 'I don't know what this is supposed to look like' and there's somebody that understands."

— SEL Fellows Academy Participant

You will have opportunities for collaboration and connection with others:

- **Journey Partners:** Monthly collaboration with a group of two to three SEL Fellows who share a common goal, district/ regional structure, and/or interests. Collaboration with Journey Partners 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 team 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.

THE TAKEAWAYS

At the end of the 10-month virtual 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.
- An opportunity to join the Community Network Partners virtual community of practice with other SEL leaders and their teams from across the country
- Connection as alumni to a community of SEL leaders from across the Fellows and CASEL community, and invitations to CASEL events.

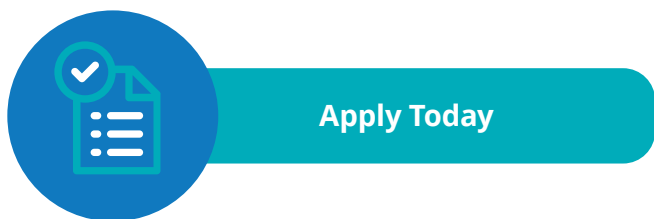
"I love having this community. I don't know how I would have even dreamed of doing even the small pieces that I'm doing right now. I just really keep thinking as I'm going through this fellowship of how many other people there are like me out there."

— SEL Fellows Academy Participant



Apply to Join the Next Cohort

We are eager to have you join this powerful community. The application of interest is now open, and will be available online at:



APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- **Employed by a school district or regional office of education in the United States. The Fellows experience is offered in English.**
- **Responsible for leading SEL in their community**

The cost is \$6,000 per person for the 10-month engagement. Applicants may designate if they require financial assistance to participate on their application. Each cohort will accept up to 45 people.

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

"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 empower each student to courageously pursue their goals and dreams."

— SEL Fellows Academy Participants