

October 2022

## Happy New School Year!

Dear SEL4CO supporters,

We can barely believe the new school year has begun-we hope you had a wonderfully fulfilling summer-and we understand that summer might feel far away right now! Now that we have a leadership team and over 100 SEL supporters across the state, we are encouraged by the prospect of reaching more people and coming up with a cohesive set of goals. If you are interested in networking, best practices, policy and advocacy, research or just learning more about Social Emotional Learning, SEL4CO is for you!

### What do you want SEL4CO to accomplish in 2022-23?

#### Upcoming Dates

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 12pm**

SEL4CO Leadership Meetings-3rd Monday of every Month 5pm

**October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm**

**SEL4CO Meeting @ Large-**  
We will have a panel discussion on various perspectives on SEL to better understand SEL in various contexts. It's certain to be a rich conversation!

**SEL4CO presented and hosted a booth at the CDE Fall Conference: Reconnecting & Building Stronger Colorado in Colorado Springs on September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**We will be hosting statewide meetings in October, February, and July.  
Please join us & bring a colleague!**

### Susan's Sayings



As the honeymoon period in schools is over, if you even got one this year, it is ever more important to take care of your own wellbeing. SEL is not just for students but for all of us. If our tank is empty, we have nothing left to give. Give yourself the gift of self-compassion. Don't expect perfection but a growth mindset. We all have our good days and other days with many challenges. Lean on your strengths when those challenges arise. Remember "Me before we!"

### Betsy's Beats



**We are all here because we care deeply about SEL in our school communities, but I'm not sure what could have prepared us for the extreme politized reactions to SEL. How did doing what is best for all students become the "wrong" thing to do? Some of the things I have heard people say about SEL....is sad, and confusing.**

**We are here for your questions & support, as well as resources.**

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We are seeking additional leadership team members in the area of technology and social media, communications and outreach as well as numerous area representatives. If you are interested in "Being the change," please contact us!

We are actively seeking new team members across Colorado. Additional representation from underrepresented communities, including the Indigenous people of Colorado, is crucial to our future and our work.

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Please don't hesitate to reach out for additional questions or information.

Susan Davis

Chair SEL4CO

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Have you visited our new website yet?? Check out [SEL4CO.org](https://SEL4CO.org) today!

**Share your WHY with us!**



SCAN ME



**For more information  
about SEL4CO, scan here!**

**My "WHY" ...in my own words...**

*"I became immersed in SEL to meet the needs of my students. The number of kiddos identified as needing support keeps rising, but the resources I receive in my Center Based SED Classroom never appeared to come close to catching up. I have a passion to grasp onto any information I can to make sure my amazing students receive support, are mainstreamed to the best of their ability, feel safe and loved at school. My mission is to meet them when they are, develop trust, and ignite a love of learning. -a Metro Region Rep*

...healthy communities help to protect children from trauma. Healthy communities exist when the people who make up those communities are able to regulate their emotions and communicate feelings in a prosocial way. Students learn life skills that they in turn will bring back to their communities as adults, and the cycle of hurt and trauma should decrease, rather than increase. We know that SEL benefits brain development and promotes prosocial communication and behavior. We know the benefits of insisting on inclusive communities where individuals, regardless of their background, can feel accepted and safe. As a society, we all benefit. I am driven to continue informing people about the importance of SEL and serving the students, staff, and families in my school community not only because it is best practice for children, but also because it is best practice for society. It is best practice for humanity, and this is something the world needs. -a Pikes Peak Region Rep

**My "WHY" ...in my own words...**

**.....the candle which illuminates today's Social-Emotional Learning belief system.....[that] our students needed a vehicle through which they could grow by their own design, built upon their essential being, while following their own transformational insight, and then redefining their inner strengths....school is analogous to what we are working through as a society in the midst of a never-ending pandemic. This virus is both metaphysical and existential in nature. Even after we are no longer infected, we still must challenge ourselves to be Luke Skywalker.....-a SEL4Co Rep**

**My "WHY" ...in my own words...**

## Professional Development Opportunities-

### *Local Opportunities*

- *Colorado Department of Education Trainings*

### *National Opportunities*

*CASEL-Learning Together SEL Workshops*

*CASEL-Demystifying Systemic Social and Emotional Learning:  
10-Part Series*

***Don't forget to join our Statewide SEL4CO Meeting October 25th at 5PM!  
Coming soon, you may have an opportunity to earn credit for attending!***

***With the support of a **RISE grant**, six Denver-area charter schools delivered summer programs that included academic, social-emotional, and experiential components. The Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (**Colorado Lab**) created a learning community to support these schools in sharing best practices and identifying and testing solutions to emerging challenges.***

***The Colorado Lab is excited to share the following products that can support other charter school leaders in developing summer programs:***

***A **Summer Programs Toolkit** that shares lessons learned, along with tools that other school leaders can use to develop summer programs.***

***A **video** to highlight the value of centering summer programs in social emotional learning, with a call to action for funders and policy makers.***

*****Videos from each of the six schools** highlighting the implementation of their summer programs.***

***Please go to [SEL4CO.org](https://SEL4CO.org) for clickable links!***