

May 2024

Since the enactment of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights in September 2011, our school district has been dedicated to upholding the mandates outlined in the legislation. The Rumson School District has proactively taken steps to combat harassment, intimidation, and bullying while prioritizing social and emotional learning in alignment with our mission statement. To cultivate a nurturing school environment, our district is actively equipping students with social-emotional skills through the utilization of Responsive Classroom strategies, the incorporation of Morning Meeting sessions, and the implementation of programs such as Zones of Regulation, Self-Q, and Metacognition.

Upon completion of a comprehensive self-assessment, it was evident that our school district has successfully met all the criteria laid out in the evaluation. This year, our district remains committed to the Anti-Bullying programs, methods, and new endeavors. Teachers at Deane-Porter and Forrestdale schools have been enthusiastically participating in extensive professional development activities focused on metacognition, Self-Q, and Zones of Regulation throughout the year. We have also partnered with NJ4S, a statewide services hub which provides an array of wellness services to support students, to work with our middle school population on focus topics that align to our mission: 1.) thoughts, behaviors, emotions, 2.) decision-making, 3.) perspective taking, and 4.) coping skills. Furthermore, the district has broadened its Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports and embraced a Restorative Approach to discipline.

Moreover, our dedicated counselors, health educators, and mindfulness instructors deliver diverse components of character education and student wellness on a weekly basis. We actively encourage community engagement through our Parent Academy sessions, where parents and guardians are offered insights into a range of childhood and adolescent development issues, including mental health awareness, and their influence on both academic performance and the school's climate.

Regular meetings of our School Safety/Climate Committees and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Teams are held to continuously enhance and uphold a positive school climate. These meetings focus on developing and implementing ongoing, systematic operational protocols and educational strategies within the school environment. They also aim to address concerns such as harassment, intimidation, and bullying that impact the school's overall atmosphere and ethos. Furthermore, the NJ State Bar Foundation has provided ongoing professional development to our district SEL Team with their "Beyond Bias: Unconscious Bias" workshops. The workshops focus on exploring unconscious bias within our school environment, aiming to identify strategies that promote inclusivity and equity in the classroom.