



Brian Eichert, Psy.D.

Today, we are featuring Brian Eichert. A Rutgers University alumni, Brian previously worked alongside Dr. Maurice Elias in the Social Emotional Character Development (SECD) Lab, to which he attributes the success in his present role as a behavioral specialist and co-director of the South Brunswick (NJ) School District's SEL committee.

Brian's primary focus on the district committee is to not only represent one group of people, but all the stakeholders within the district from the elementary, middle, and high schools, and the administration. The committee set out to do this through the creation of a three year strategic plan, prioritizing increasing awareness of social emotional learning across the South Brunswick community.

The district has, like many industries, had to turn to a remote environment due to the current pandemic. As a result, Brian reveals that to help initiate the execution of their three year goals, one of their biggest creations this year was a [SEL google site](#). The site is a prime resource for SEL strategies, activities and events available for all to utilize.

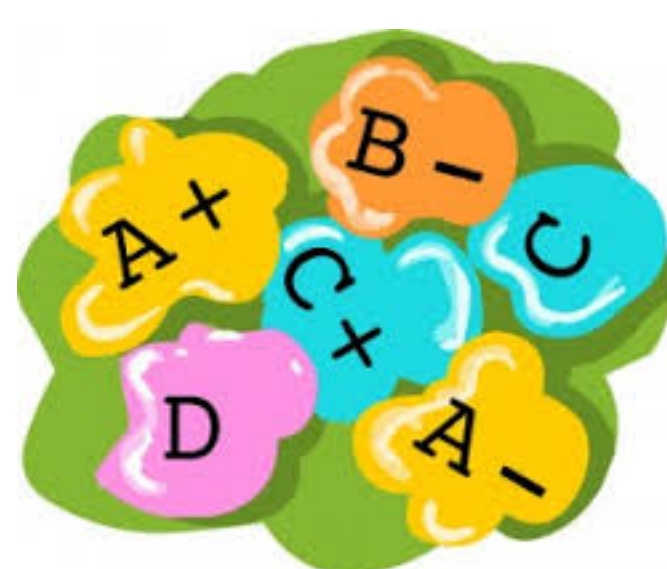
While the district has already formed a functional SEL structure for students, their long term goals include striving to deliver explicit SEL instruction for all grades K-12. Additionally the committee aims to continue to find the "silver linings" within opportunities that allow them to reassess plans and goals related to achieving a successful SEL-environment within the whole community.

Keep your eyes out for our next feature - Michele SantaMaria - Brian's colleague on the South Brunswick SEL committee and some of the brains behind their website!



Character.org recently published the Model Standards for Character and Social-Emotional Development (CSED) to fuse together character and social-emotional development. The [CSED Model](#) helps students understand & practice SEL skills and character strengths that will enable them to flourish in school.

Grading During the Pandemic: A Conversation



In a recent article, two leading advocates of grading reform, *Joe Feldman & Douglas Reeves*, discussed how grading practices and policies can be influenced by the ongoing pandemic and the widespread school closures last spring.

Check out the full interview [HERE](#) to learn more!

Upcoming Events

PureEdge is currently offering a Self-Care and Social Emotional Learning Series for educators, caregivers, and community members.

This is a 5-session series of live, interactive webinars that will focus on your self-care through the lens of CASEL's five SEL competencies. The first two have already occurred, but there is still time to sign up for the remaining three!

Host: Michelle Mitchell

Register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GLFrdTkKSQyDq2R1c4OYBQ

Time: 1:30 PM PDT / 4:30 PM EDT

Dates:

10/15: Self-Care & Social Awareness

10/22: Self-Care & Relationship Skills

10/29: Self-Care & Responsible Decision Making

Virtual Professional Learning Community

Our Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) is always looking for new topics or areas of interest. If you could send us an issue, topic, or question for which you would most like consultation/support we would greatly appreciate it!

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