



Hello! We hope you had a wonderful International SEL Day!

As many of us are aware, we are currently facing a global pandemic that has drastically changed our daily routines and our ways of life. Many working parents are facing the difficult task of balancing their own careers while making sure that their children are staying on top of their home education. [Rutgers Today](#) recently interviewed GG Weisenfeld from the National Institute for Early Education Research for tips and advice on how parents can help their children with at-home education.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, many young people are out of school with limited access to educational resources. In this time of uncertainty, concern, and chaos, the need for foundational social and emotional skills is greater than ever. We have brainstormed some activities in this [Toolkit](#), created for SEL Day, that you can continue to use to teach, learn, and celebrate SEL at home!



Teachers are also faced with the difficulty of transforming the way that they teach. To promote optimal learning, it is important that students' social and emotional development in mind. Dr. Elias writes for NJEA to offer [tips for managing virtual instruction](#) during the COVID-19 crisis.

Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC)

We are in the midst of research and evaluation efforts to learn more about your experiences in the Academy. We will reach out to everyone eventually, however, we have already learned that one term is somewhat of a mystery: VPLC.

So, what is the VPLC? The VPLC is the Virtual Professional Learning Community - and guess what - you're already a part of it! For those of you in the "thick of it" (i.e. still enrolled in classes), your VPLC is expansive. You have your course cohort as a source of consultation and feedback, your instructor(s) to reach out to, and you also have the option of reaching out to our community of experts at the Academy using the email: SELvplc@gmail.com.

For alumni, the VPLC brings continuous added value to your certificate. This, in turn, enhances your role in your school or after-school setting, including serving as a resource to other staff with regard to children's Social-Emotional and character competencies. We encourage alumni, who may or may not have contact with their cohorts or instructors to reach out to us at SELvplc@gmail.com.

These times remind us of the importance of creating and accessing our communities (especially the virtual ones!). Don't forget you have a support system built into the Academy!

Stay safe and healthy!

Upcoming Event:

[Urban Assembly Conference](#)

May 29, 2020

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