

SEL in Practice

Webinar Series

Purpose

- The SEL in Practice webinar series provides space for stakeholders to engage with statewide experts on key Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) topics, emerging practices, and implementation strategies.
- The series increases awareness of Illinois' SEL resources and supports by highlighting the work of the SEL Hubs through presentations by Hub directors and RSSI team members.
- By creating direct connections between participants and SEL experts, the series strengthens outreach, promotes available supports, and expands access to professional learning opportunities.

Goals

- Increase understanding of Illinois SEL Standards and best practices.
- Strengthen connections between stakeholders and SEL Hubs.
- Identify SEL supports like SEL Hubs, SEL Toolkit, and RSSI.
- Share promising practices and resources.
- Develop actionable next steps with RSSI if desired.
- Build a professional learning network.
- Identify practical strategies for local implementation.

Session Structure

- Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes) - ISBE
- SEL in Practice session (40 minutes) - Guest presenter
- Closing and Resource Sharing (10 minutes) - ISBE

Housekeeping

- **Registration:** Weekly webinar links are posted on the Social and Emotional Learning [webpage](#).
- Webinars will be recorded and posted on the Social and Emotional Learning [webpage](#).

Week 1: Why SEL Matters

- **Wednesday October 7, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- **Presenters:** Area 4 SEL Hub Team led by Holly Kelly, the Director of Innovation and School Improvement for ROE 39 and Area 4 SEL Hub Director with Area 4 Hub coaches Amy Jones and Shayla Fountain.
- **Topics:**
 - Purpose and benefits of SEL
 - Impact on student outcomes, belonging, and school climate

Week 2: Understanding the Illinois SEL Standards

- **Wednesday October 14, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm
- **Presenters:** Theresa Olsen from ISBE and Caryn Curry, the Director of Organizational Excellence at Lurie Children's Hospital's Center for Childhood Resilience.
- **Topics:**
 - Overview of the new Illinois SEL Standards
 - Connections to SEL Toolkit and Learning Resource Hub

Week 3: Creating Supportive Learning Environments

- **Wednesday October 21, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenter:** Christine Craddock, Professional Learning Specialist from ROE 51 and SEL Hub 3 Coach.
- **Topics:**
 - Positive relationships
 - Psychological safety
 - Inclusive classroom culture
 - How do schools foster student belonging?
 - What barriers exist?

Week 4: Adult SEL and Well-Being

- **Wednesday October 28, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenters:** Kevin McNicholas and Erin Shook, SEL Hub 5 coaches for ROE 40. They serve ROE's 3, 40, 41, 45, and 50.
- **Topics:**
 - Educator wellness
 - Modeling SEL competencies
 - What supports educators need most?
 - How can schools strengthen staff wellness?

Week 5: SEL and Academic Integration

- **Wednesday November 4, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenter:** Christine Schweitzer, Area 2 SEL Hub Director, ROE #4.
- **Topics:**
 - Embedding SEL into academic instruction
 - Teaching SEL through everyday learning
 - How is SEL currently integrated?
 - What resources would be helpful?

Week 6: Student Voice and Agency

- **Wednesday November 18, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenter:** Coming Soon!
- **Topics:**
 - Empowering student perspectives to support resilience and engagement
 - Shared decision making
 - How are student voices currently gathered?
 - What opportunities exist to expand engagement?

Week 7: Equity Through SEL

- **Wednesday December 2, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenters:** Aleza Berube, Director of Outpatient and School-Based Services at the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center and Danielle Hatchimonji, Clinical Community Psychologist at the Center for Childhood Resilience.
- **Topics:**
 - Identity, belonging, and culturally responsive practices
 - Equitable access to SEL supports
 - How does SEL support equity goals?
 - Where do gaps remain?

Week 8: Family and Community Partnerships

- **Wednesday December 9, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenter:** Aleza Berube, the Director of Outpatient and School-Based Services at the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center.
- **Topics:**
 - Engaging families in SEL
 - Building community connections
 - How are families included in SEL efforts?
 - What partnership opportunities exist?

Week 9: SEL Data and Continuous Improvement

- **Wednesday December 16, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenters:** Holly Kelly, the Director of Innovation and School Improvement for ROE 39 and Aleza Berube, the Director of Outpatient and School-Based Services at the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center.
- **Topics:**
 - Using perception data, climate data, and feedback
 - Improvement planning
 - What data is most useful?
 - How is feedback utilized?

Week 10: Mental Health and SEL Connections

- **Wednesday January 6, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenter:** Christine Schweitzer, Area 2 SEL Hub Director, ROE #4.
- **Topics:**
 - Relationship between mental health and SEL
 - Prevention and early intervention
 - What support is most effective?
 - What additional resources are needed?

Week 11: Promising Practices Showcase

- **Wednesday January 13, 2026**
- 12:00 – 1 pm
- **Presenters:** Caryn Curry, the Director of Organizational Excellence at Lurie Children's Hospital's Center for Childhood Resilience and Chrissy Mombela, Director of Programs and Initiatives at the Partner for Resilience.
- **Topics:**
 - Sharing success stories
 - Learning from peers
 - What practices have had the greatest impact?
 - What lessons learned should be shared statewide?