



## NJASP NEWS

### *State Board of Education Adopts Resolution Regarding Social Emotional Competencies*

On August 2, the State Board of Education unanimously approved the adoption of a resolution recommending school districts implement the New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies. These skills would be implemented across all grade levels, and facilitate the development of safe and supportive schools. John Lestino, chairperson of the NJASP Professional Development Committee, and myself, attended this meeting. NJASP pleased to participate in the Social Emotional Learning workgroup, which included NJASP Executive Board members Debbie Keeney, co-chair of our Government and Professional Relations Committee, and Dale Starcher, co-chair of the Professional Development Committee. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Dr. Maurice Elias of Rutgers University, whose presentation included addressing questions and concerns of State Board of Education members. A debt of gratitude also goes to NJDOE officials Peggy McDonald, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Learning Supports and Specialized Services, Nancy Curry, Director of the Office of Student Support Services, and Kelly Allen, Manager of the Office of Student Support Services, for their leadership in this effort. As soon as the final version of the competencies is posted, we will make them available to you.

However, there is still much to do in terms of implementing these competencies at the district level. School psychologists are ideally positioned to take a leadership role in this effort, and to advocate for its implementation in our schools. It's particularly important given the significant impact these competencies can have on the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic success of all students.

Barry Barbarasch

Chairperson - NJASP Government and Professional Relations Committee

NJASP President