



# Integrating SEL to Boost Achievement in Secondary Math Classrooms

## Course Syllabus

### Course Description

"Integrating SEL to Boost Achievement in Secondary Math Classrooms" is a professional development course designed for educators teaching grades 6-12. This two-credit course emphasizes the critical role of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in enhancing academic achievement in mathematics.

Module 1, "SEL and Academic Achievement," explores the research linking SEL competencies with improved student outcomes. In Module 2, "SEL in the Context of Secondary Math Education," participants will delve into the specific challenges and opportunities of applying SEL in math instruction. Module 3, "Integrating SEL into Existing Math Curriculum," offers practical strategies for embedding SEL into daily lessons, student assignments, and assessments both formative and summative. Module 4, "Professional Development and Teacher Well-Being," focuses on the importance of educators' own SEL skills and self-care practices. Module 5, "SEL and Identity," addresses how SEL supports the development of students' personal and academic identities, particularly in diverse classroom settings. Finally, Module 6, "SEL and a Classroom Culture of Belonging," provides tools to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

This course will equip educators with the knowledge and skills to create a math classroom where students thrive emotionally and academically. This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in integrating social-emotional learning into secondary math instruction to support student well-being, identity development, and academic success.

### Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify and explain what social-emotional learning is and describe its impact on academic achievement.\*
2. Identify specific social and emotional challenges in math education and apply a variety of tools and strategies to effectively address them.
3. Adapt existing lessons and curriculum to intentionally support the development of students' social and emotional intelligence, as demonstrated through lesson plans or instructional strategies.
4. Examine the teaching profession and ways teachers have found to thrive within it, despite its challenges.



5. Describe how students' identities come into play when they learn math, and explain strategies to create positive math identities in students.
6. Identify characteristics of a math classroom with a strong sense of student belonging, and develop strategies to create that in your own context.

### **Modules**

- Module 1: SEL and Academic Achievement, Quiz 1
- Module 2: SEL in the Context of Secondary Math Education, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Integrating SEL into Existing Math Curriculum, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Professional Development and Teacher Well-Being, Quiz 4
- Module 5: SEL and Identity, Quiz 5
- Module 6: SEL and a Classroom Culture of Belonging, Quiz 6

### **Grading:**

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

### **Format**

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.