

## Powerful Questions for Conversation

### The First Alaskans Institute (FAI) Community Conversation Model

The FAI Community Conversation Model for Hosting Discussions on Racism and Racial Equity begins with a Powerful Question that starts community conversation. The CRESEL conversations are facilitated by FAI, AASB, and the SEL Champion.



To learn more about the “Framework for Culturally Responsive Embedded SEL” and to receive a copy of the checklist, contact:

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*Now that we have a common SEL language, a conversation at lunch becomes a valuable brainstorming session. It has brought our staff closer together. We wanted SEL to help us change the climate in our school. We've realized that the change starts with us.* – AK 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher



### CRESEL Powerful Questions

**What do Tlingit, Athabaskan, Yup'ik, Inupiat values teach us are the most important skills for students? How can you tell when students have mastered these skills?**

**What would it look like when you walked into a school that welcomes your family and your culture?**

**How can schools support these important cultural values and skills (in the classroom, hallways, other ways, with students and adults)?**

**What things do Alaska Native families and community do to encourage positive behavior? How can the school be consistent with families and communities?**

**What is important for teachers to know about Alaska Native children? What makes a good teacher?**

*SEL is making a difference for our students. We have happy learners - students who can focus on academics because they're not side-tracked by a lot of other issues. Because of that, our test scores are higher and we have fewer office referrals. – AK Elementary Principal*



## Culturally Responsive and Embedded Social and Emotional Learning (CRESEL)

### A Framework for Alaskan School Districts



Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB)

# Framework for CRESEL

## B. POLICY ACTIONS

- (B1) Embed CR SEL in the teaching framework adopted by the district, e.g. Marzano.
- (B2) Embed CR SEL in Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports.
- (B3) Develop a CR SEL Board Policy.
- (B4) Review and embed CR SEL in existing policies, strategic plans, procedures, supports and communications.

## C. CONTENT & PEDAGOGY ACTIONS

- (C1) Choose evidence-based SEL approach.
- (C2) Make culturally responsive modifications to the curriculum and supporting materials that maintain fidelity to the evidence-base.
- (C3) Identify teaching practices that align with and support students' cultural norms.
- (C4) Infuse SEL principles into organizing, planning, and carrying out after-school activities

## D. FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS ACTIONS

- (D1) Create materials for parents with CR SEL from the school-based SEL curriculum and from after school SEL activities.
- (D2) Develop professional development focused on how to engage families.
- (D3) Engage in quality continuous improvement.

## E. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

- (E1) Infuse culturally responsive themes into professional development - Trauma Informed Practices, Cultural Self-Awareness, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Practices, Link to Regional Cultural Resources
- (E2) Align professional development with the Learning Forward standards for Professional Development. Professional learning that increases

*Math is often a scary subject for students—one that many have a history of not succeeding in. With SEL we've created a safe environment in which students are willing to try and persevere. I've seen my students become brave learners who actually want to come to school and who strive towards academic achievement.*

— AK High School Teacher



# Culturally Responsive Embedded SEL

The Framework for Culturally Responsive Embedded SEL (CRESEL) is a tool for Alaskan school districts infusing social and emotional learning into their district and school-wide infrastructure and student and family services. The five elements in the Framework – Learning Environment, Policies, Content and Pedagogy, Family Partnerships, and Professional Development. – are drawn from extensive research around the components of culturally responsive education.



*SEL builds community in my classroom. I've noticed more participation and enthusiasm for learning. SEL is important at my school because so many students are dealing with absent parents and unsettled home lives. School might be the only place where they feel connected and that needs to remain constant.*

— AK Kindergarten Teacher

## A. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ACTIONS

- (A1) Translate SEL competencies into SEL skills that align with cultural values.
- (A2) Establish district/school vision for CR SEL.
- (A3) Build consensus for CR SEL action plan.
- (A4) Embed CR SEL competencies aligned with cultural values in positive behavior supports (PBS).
- (A5) Create CR SEL learning environment supports and resources.
- (A6) Engage in quality continuous improvement.