

Safe and Supportive Learning Environments *Essentials* Professional Learning Series

We start with the premise that you want all students and educators to have the conditions they need to thrive, including safe and supportive learning environments. We offer the *Essentials* Professional Learning Series to help you get there.

“We” here refers to members of WestEd’s Resilient and Healthy Schools and Communities team, bringing our decades of experience building the capacity of schools, districts, regional and county offices, and states across the country.

At the core, the Safe and Supportive Learning Environments (SSLE) *Essentials* are a 10-part professional learning series for both K–12 staff and administrators. The series focuses on many topics that may be familiar, such as trauma-informed, restorative, and culturally responsive practices, social and emotional learning (SEL), school climate, and related whole-person topics, with attention to equity throughout.

But the SSLE *Essentials* series is not a new program to be added onto existing programs. Instead, it is meant to help you integrate a broad cluster of research-based content and culturally responsive practices that inherently work together to foster safe and supportive learning environments. The series helps participants develop the knowledge and build the capacity they need to infuse these practices into the everyday instruction and experiences of their schools, districts, and agencies.

Key Principles and Elements

- Practical and manageable scope and sequence for learning and application
- Collaborative and experiential learning with opportunities for practice and reflection with peers
- Educator-friendly language that removes stigma and simplifies similar or overlapping concepts
- Bringing together the most important or “essential” pieces of the research, frameworks, practices, and lenses that help create and sustain safe and supportive learning environments
- Ongoing coaching and support to integrate and apply new knowledge, reflect on practice, and find solutions
- Sustainable systems and structures to support effective implementation, scale-up, and ongoing improvement

Scope and Sequence

The SSLE *Essentials* Professional Learning Series contains 8 *Essentials* for school/district staff and an additional 2 *Essentials* for administrators and other school leaders, for a total of 10 *Essentials* for administrators.

Focus: Personal/Individual

Essential 1 – **Together We Will: Placing Our Work into Context**

Essential 2 – **How Brain Science Informs Teaching and Learning**

Essential 3 – **The Role of Self-Care and Bringing Our Whole Selves to Work**

Focus: Interpersonal/Collective

Essential 4 – **Person-Context Interactions**

Essential 5 – **Person-Context Interactions, continued**

Essential 6 – **Power, Culture, and Social Context**

Essential 7 – **Voice, Agency, and Co-Creation**

Focus: Structural/Systemic

Essential 8 – **Revisiting Our Journey and Looking Ahead**

Focus: Structural/Systemic (Administrators Only)

Essential 9 – **Leadership and Systems Supports**

Essential 10 – **Sustainability**

What the SSLE *Essentials* Professional Learning Series is NOT

- Another framework or program to be added onto already full plates (instead participants explore ways to unify siloed efforts that all aim for the same goal: safe and supportive learning environments)
- A one-and-done experience (instead the series guides participants to develop ways to carry the work forward after the series ends)
- Content that is devoid of context or that people could just read on their own (instead the experiences emphasize collaboration and local context)

Options for Engagement

On-Site Professional Learning	Virtual Professional Learning	Capacity Building Train-the-Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants: school/district staff and administrators • Covers <i>Essentials</i> 1–8 (for staff), 1–10 (for administrators/leaders) • Direct facilitation on-site • Facilitated twice monthly over the course of a school year (this is the ideal, although some modifications to schedule may be allowed) • Experiential practice and reflection between sessions • Individual/small-group coaching with select staff/administrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants: school, district, state, or other agency staff and administrators • Individuals via digital course enrollment • Site-based teams via digital course enrollment • Private digital course for teams/sites • Covers <i>Essentials</i> 1–8 (for staff), 1–10 (for administrators/leaders) • Direct facilitation online • Synchronous learning and peer collaboration • Asynchronous experiential practice and reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants: cadre of school, district, or state SSLE <i>Essentials</i> facilitators • Prerequisite: SSLE <i>Essentials</i> Professional Learning series • Training and capacity building of facilitators to implement SSLE <i>Essentials</i> at their sites • In-person, interactive sessions build facilitator knowledge and skills • Virtual coaching and Communities of Practice required • Flexible options for dates and sequencing

Work with us!

To schedule sessions or learn more about our Safe and Supportive Learning Environments *Essentials*, please contact us at SSLE@wested.org.