



## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### *Press Release*

~~~~~IMPORTANT~~~~~

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## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WINS AWARD TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN TEACHING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

*\$7,250 award will allow district to implement social-emotional supports for students with disabilities*

FARMINGTON, CT - The NoVo Foundation, in partnership with Education First and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, announced that Farmington Public Schools has won a grant award from its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Innovation Fund. This funding will allow Farmington to design, implement and evaluate an SEL curriculum for K-12 students who are self-contained all or part of the day due to emotional or behavioral disabilities. Over 328 districts across the country applied for this award, and only 30 were selected—only 9% of applications.

Superintendent Kathleen Greider of the Farmington Public Schools stated, “The NoVo Foundation’s grant will allow the Farmington Public Schools to continue to deepen and expand supports for social emotional learning. We are grateful to the NoVo Foundation for their generous funding through the organization’s SEL Innovation Fund.”

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process of developing fundamental skills for life success within supportive, participatory learning environments. SEL skills include recognizing and managing emotions, developing caring and concern for others, establishing positive relationships and making responsible decisions. These crucial capacities can be taught by classroom teachers to students of every background.

The Social Emotional Learning Innovation Fund offered up to \$5,000 grant awards for teacher-led projects and \$25,000 grant awards for district projects that span multiple schools in the 2017-18 school



year. All recipients will have the opportunity to present their work to and connect with a group of national SEL practitioners, experts and advocates at a convening later this year.

“All across the country, school districts are beginning to recognize that a well-rounded education must be about more than higher test scores or rigid academic assessments,” said Jennifer Buffett, co-president of the NoVo Foundation. “Farmington is showing us how to put this belief into action. It stands as a model for truly innovative social and emotional learning programs that will strengthen the lives of students far into the future.”

The Innovation Fund sought proposals from individual educators, teams of educators and district leaders seeking to improve systems that foster social and emotional skills in fresh, inventive or innovative ways. Examples include novel interventions or instructional practices focused on improving competencies such as resilience, learning mindsets, compassion, self-management and sense of belonging.

“There is still much to learn about how to successfully implement SEL in our classrooms, and so innovation at the district level is critical,” said Kelly James of Education First. “We’re excited to see the impact that Farmington’s plan has on kids.”

### **About NoVo Foundation**

The NoVo Foundation is dedicated to building a more just and balanced world. Founded in 2006 by Jennifer and Peter Buffett, NoVo has become one of the largest private foundations in the world to support initiatives focused explicitly on girls and women, including a dedicated focus on ending violence against girls and women and supporting adolescent girls. NoVo also works to advance social and emotional learning, support Indigenous communities and promote local living economies. Learn more at [www.novofoundation.org](http://www.novofoundation.org).

### **About Education First**

Education First is a national strategy and policy organization with unique and deep expertise in education improvement and reform. Our mission is to deliver exceptional ideas, experience-based solutions and results so all students – and particularly low-income students and students of color – are prepared for success in college, career and life. We envision a world in which every student is prepared to succeed—a world in which income and race no longer determine the quality of education. Learn more at [education-first.com](http://education-first.com).

### **About Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) is a nonprofit organization that currently advises on and manages more than \$200 million in annual giving. Headquartered in New York City, it traces its antecedents to John D. Rockefeller Sr., who in 1891 began to professionally manage his philanthropy “as if it were a business.” With thoughtful and effective philanthropy as its one and only mission, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors has grown into one of the world’s largest philanthropic service organizations, having overseen more than \$3 billion to date in grantmaking across the globe from four regional offices in the United States.