

School-Wide SEL Training in Partnership with UMOJA

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The Why

The COVID pandemic disrupted students' routines, relationships, and education. While SEL is a daily focus at Blackshear Elementary, administrators and staff recognized the need for enhanced training to support students' re-integration into the school system.



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The What

31 school staff members attended a virtual 2.5 hour UMOJA workshop titled "Creating Safe Spaces for Necessary Conversations". Topics included self-awareness, empathic listening, and conducting classroom circles. The CIS micro-grant fully funded this workshop.

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Successes

- 97% staff agreed that the training "will be useful in my work"
 - Prior to the workshop, 64.5% of staff indicated that they were knowledgeable about the topics of personal biases, power, and privilege; following the workshop, 100% of staff indicated that they were knowledgeable about these topics.
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Challenges

We hosted the workshop immediately prior to the winter storm, which closed schools for two weeks. Upon returning to school, our teachers' and administration's priorities were crisis response and academic catch-up, and there were no opportunities for whole group follow-up or debriefing regarding the workshop.

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A hope

As we enter a new school year with similar challenges, I hope to conduct a refresher training with staff that reinforces the SEL skills of self-awareness, empathic listening, and conducting classroom circles.
