



**FACING  
HISTORY &  
OURSELVES**

# SCHOOLS WHERE WE BELONG



## **Uniting equity, social-emotional learning, and civic education to transform schools.**

Schools are the foundation of just and democratic societies. In addition to fostering academic achievement and preparing young people to be career or college ready, schools play a critical role in developing the next generation of civic actors. We believe that building civic agency and engagement involves the mind, heart, and conscience and that students' social-emotional well-being and access to equity are interdependent with academic learning.

Fulfilling these ideals often means juggling multiple mandates and initiatives on top of the daily challenges of running a school, making innovation and change feel like a daunting task. But with the right tools and support, we know it is possible.

## **As former teachers and administrators, we know what the challenges are:**

- Siloed approaches to social-emotional learning, equity, and academics are hard to integrate into classrooms and across school culture
- One-off professional learning experiences fall short of preparing faculty to meet the broad range of needs
- Lack of time to collaborate, vet resources, or innovate
- Increasing mandates on schools
- Short-term “fixes” that don’t lead to lasting change



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# Our Promise

**Students** will gain analytical skills, empathy, tolerance, civic responsibility, and the belief that they can make a difference in the world.

**Teachers** will be more confident and skilled at fostering students' academic, civic, and social-emotional learning.

**School Leaders** will be equipped to shape and maintain a student-centered, brave, and inclusive school culture.

**Classrooms and Schools** will gain more equity mindsets, be respectful, reflective, and participatory—necessary conditions for deep learning.

# Our Solution

Our schoolwide program, backed by decades of evidence, integrates student-centered teaching practices throughout school culture and curriculum.

We will partner with you to develop a self-sustaining program to identify and advance your school's goals; nurture teachers' professional learning and growth; and motivate young people to recognize their own agency and responsibilities to combat hatred and bigotry and change the world for the better.

## Our flexible two-year partnership includes:

High-quality instructional materials and tools for ELA and social studies teachers

Professional learning and coaching

Leadership development and consulting

Support for continuous improvement

# How it works

## 2 Design & Launch

Develop your vision and action plan using the results from your assessment. We will partner with you to:

- Develop a vision for your school community
- Design an implementation timeline and plan
- Identify curricular and professional learning options

## 3 Teach & Learn

The implementation period is an exciting time when school leaders and teaching faculty enter into a cycle of continuous learning and support while they implement the program. You will participate in:

- Workshops designed especially for school leaders to advance their mission
- Professional learning for teaching faculty to learn how to integrate Facing History's pedagogical approach into their daily practice
- Professional learning and coaching for humanities teachers to support their implementation of Facing History's Social Studies and English Language Arts curriculum

## 1 Explore the Program

Join our introductory workshop designed for school teams looking to build strong learning communities by integrating principles of social-emotional learning, equity, and civic education.

You will leave with:

- Concrete tools and strategies you can implement right away
- A planning meeting with a member of our Program team to explore partnership paths
- A school culture survey tool to help you identify your school's strengths and areas for growth; our evaluation team will compile your data and provide you with a report.

## 4 Reflect and Experiment

Your school will be paired with one of our Program Associates who will serve as an instructional coach to your school design team and to help the teaching faculty make curriculum adaptations throughout the year.

We will reconvene with the School Design team towards the end of the year to review progress and make any necessary adjustments to the plan for year two.

As a member of the Facing History community, you will have access to our **ON DEMAND LEARNING CENTER**, which offers a full suite of professional learning and support tools:

**Self-paced workshops, webinars, and courses**

**Instructional videos**

**Curricular and scholar content videos**

**Teaching strategies**

# Start Now

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## Step 1



Gather a design team of 4-6 stakeholders, including school leaders and administrators, classroom teachers, and guidance counselors or social workers.

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## Step 2



Send your team to our introductory workshop, **Explorations: Building Inclusive Learning Communities**.

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## Step 3



After the workshop, our team will lead you through a reflective self-assessment to define your school's vision and goals.



The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has recognized Facing History as one of only nine middle or high school SEL programs that has a proven impact on students, including increased empathy or more prosocial behavior. CASEL has also recognized Facing History for integrating issues of race/ethnicity into regular social studies and language arts instruction in its analysis of how to integrate SEL and issues of equity.

## E.S.S.A.

The Facing History and Ourselves approach meets ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) standards for Evidence Based Social-Emotional Learning Programs, one of eight middle school and only four high school programs to be recommended.



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