

From the New Schools Venture Fund (Pt 2/5): How to Make Sure Your Students Feel Physically and Emotionally Safe

Many families are worried about returning to school during a health pandemic.

At the same time, recent events have left many BIPOC children, especially Black boys, unsure of who they can trust.

What can we do to address this, and how does it affect academic achievement?



Three years of research of NSVF Ventures
has consistently found:

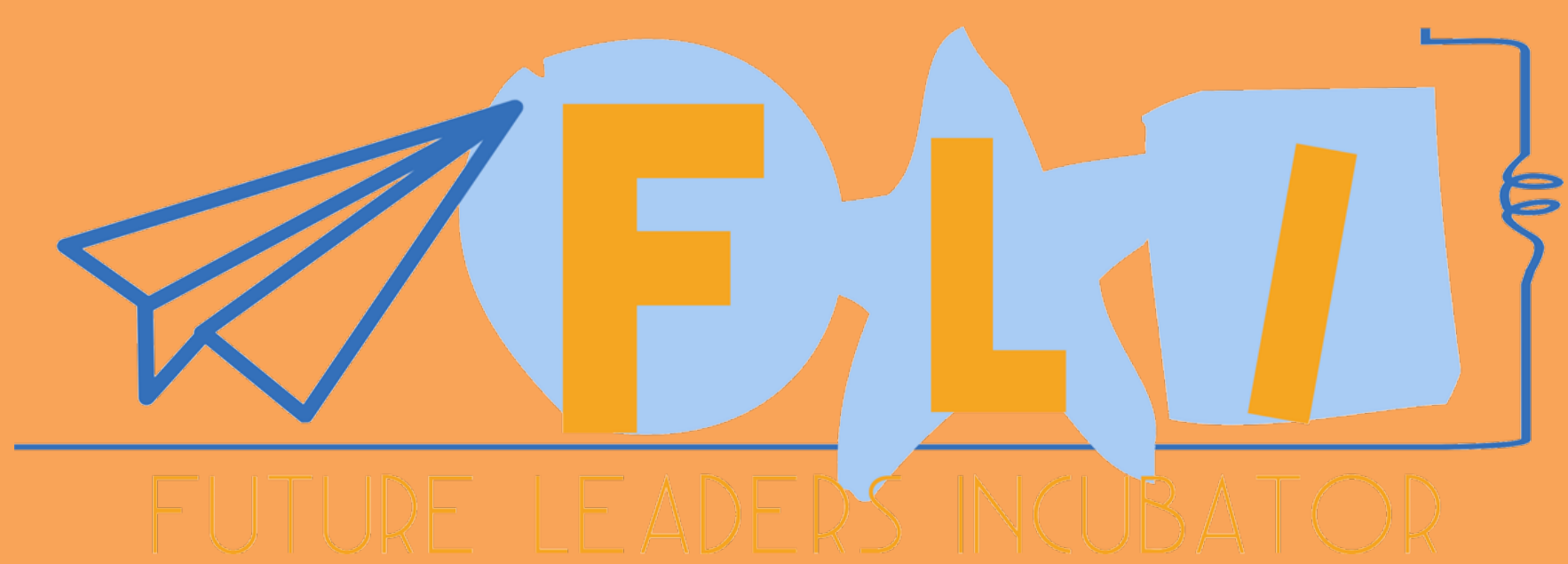


**The extent to which students feel
physically and emotionally safe**

**is the *strongest* school
culture factor correlated
with academic performance**

Students who report that they have a sense of
belonging at their schools have improved on
nationally normed assessments by an average
of 6 percentile points!

Evidence-based
initiatives that work



Initiative #1: Respond to students' "acting out"

Reaffirm belonging before reprimanding

Follow this process:

Student:

Behaves in a way that misaligns with school values

Educator responds:

"You belong; we want you in our community and want you with us in school and our classrooms."

Do this before anything else!

Both work together:

"We can work together to make a space that is safe for all students in our school community. To get there, let's figure out what things we can change now for a better future."



The Evidence:



**This disciplinary process is used by
educators at Statesmen Preparatory
Academy for Boys**

and it *works*:

**Teachers have strong relationships with
their students and 95% of students attended
online classes even after learning went remote.**



FUTURE LEADERS INCUBATOR

Initiative #2: Daily check-ins

Daily SEL Sessions + Morning and End-of-Day Check-Ins

Create time and space for students to share how they're feeling and whether they have what they need for learning.

Set up advisory group meetings for discussions and social-emotional learning.

Including (virtual) circles as part of your advisory curriculum creates intentional time and space for these important check-ins.



Need help creating SEL curriculum? Contact FLI:

info@futureleadersincubator.org

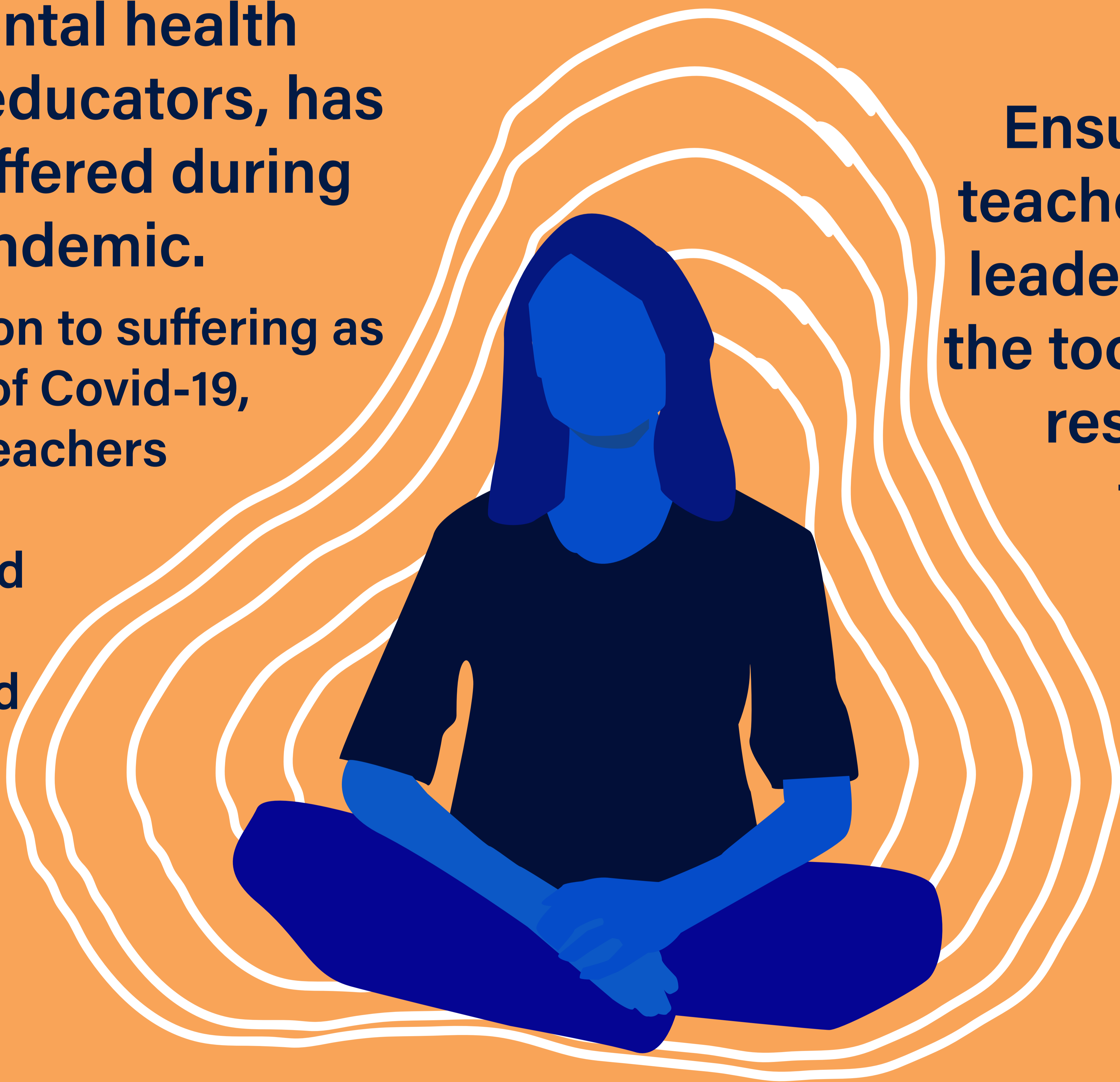
Initiative #3: Take care of teachers

Provide mental health support for teaching staff

Help teachers process their own trauma so they can better support students.

The mental health of our educators, has also suffered during this pandemic.

In addition to suffering as a result of Covid-19, BIPOC teachers are at an increased risk of racialized trauma.



Ensure that teachers and leaders have the tools and resources to heal.

FLI can help with this! We provide virtual communities and intentional professional development to help educators cope - contact info@futureleadersincubator.org



Initiative #4: Provide remote support

Create digital “touch points” for students

**Remind students you’re still there
for them, even from afar (and even when
school is “on break”)**



**Map out which teachers have the strongest connections
to which students and create a system for daily
communication between teacher and student. Students
should have at least 2 “touch points” a day when school
is “in session” (even if remote) along with continued
advisory group sessions.**



Initiative #5: Empower students to resolve situations without adult assistance

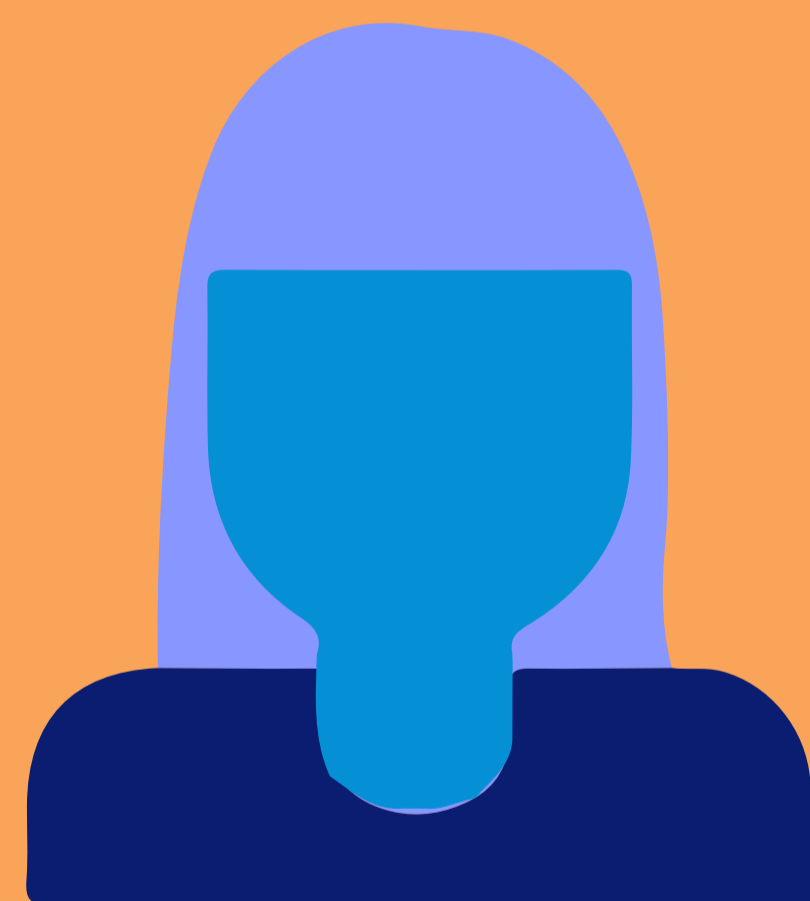
Train students in how to help each other

Implement a “peer helpers” or “student mentor” program:



Teacher / advisor

Trains in social-emotional support and conflict resolution

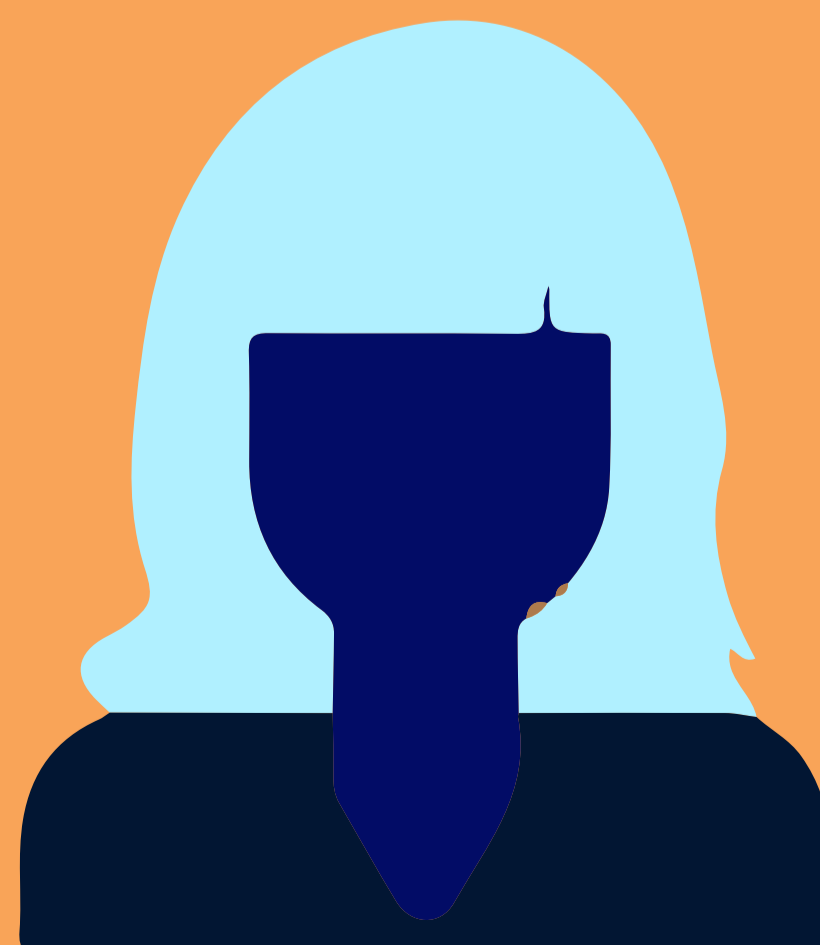


**Student Helper
(Anyone can apply!)**

Provides support and help without needing adult mediators



Reach out for support, even after schools close



Student

FLI is Here to Help!

FLI offers a number of programs to help schools create inclusive, equitable, and student-centered practices. We can help:

Implement SEL programs:

FLI works with partner schools to develop and implement culturally sensitive Social Emotional Learning to meet students' needs.

Develop Restorative Justice Practices:

FLI develops restorative justice practices that foster a sense of student belonging, unlike traditional disciplinary policies.

Provide Professional Development Workshops:

FLI offers professional development programs, including DEIA workshops, to help educators and educational leaders work through their own trauma, become more inclusive, and learn how to be more responsive to their students' needs.

Contact

info@futureleadersincubator.org



FLI is Here to Help!

FLI offers a number of programs to help schools create inclusive, equitable, and student-centered practices. We can help:

Empower your Students:

FLI's new student-led initiative, the Future Leaders Coalition, teaches students how to become better advocates for themselves and their peers. Share the news with your students and have them sign up at tinyurl.com/FutureLeadersCoalition!

Contact flc@futureleadersincubator.org for more information

