



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### **MSPA Meeting & Awards Spring Conference: School Violence and Creating Academic Success**

8:00 – 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 – 12:00 Presenter: Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D. Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University  
**“School Violence: How to Solve this Problem by Creating a Common Prevention/Intervention Framework for Your School”**

12:00 – 1:30 Banquet Lunch and MSPA Awards

1:30 – 4:00 Presenter: Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D. Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University  
**“Why Academic Success Depends on Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) and What This Means for School Psychologists”**

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **School Violence: How to Solve this Problem by Creating a Common Prevention/Intervention Framework for Your School**

Schools have a proliferation of violence prevention programs, including social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum programs, character education, bullying prevention, substance abuse prevention, counseling and related services, positive behavior supports, efforts toward school-wide positive recognition of students, and service learning. The lack of coordination of these efforts reduces their effectiveness and generalization of benefits. This leads to academic underperformance. School Psychologists are uniquely positioned by virtue of training, interest, professional goals, and value systems to serve as catalysts for reducing fragmentation and increasing coordination and synergy among existing programs. Due to growing evidence of the lack of effectiveness of disconnected programs, it is in the interest of school psychologists to move away from too close an identification with specific program-focused interventions toward an identity as organizational/systems consultants for prevention/intervention. This presentation will provide an overview of the need for a social-emotional and character development (SECD) approach to creating a common prevention/ intervention framework in schools, the consultative approach to working within existing efforts as a priority to bringing in new programs, and specific services attendees can bring back to their schools. It will draw from the work of the Center for Safe and Civil Schools, funded by the NJ Department of Education over the past three years and operating in well over 200 schools ([www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com)).

### **Why Academic Success Depends on Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) and What This Means for School Psychologists and Related Professionals**

Research shows clearly that better academic performance and success in school, as well as less violent and risky behavior, is the result of greater attachment, engagement, and commitment to school and a positive school climate. Caring relationships are the foundation for all lasting learning, and classrooms and schools that ignore this will not be able to produce sustained student success. Basic to this are safe, caring, cooperative, well-managed learning environments that teach and explicitly foster SECD competencies. This workshop will review the conceptual and research base underlying the SECD-Academic connection and provide attendees with the tools needed to integrate SECD into essential academic routines and practices in schools. Participants will learn how to effectively address the character and social-emotional needs of children, to make them more available for learning. Academic progress, especially for our most vulnerable children, depends on their developing social-emotional skills and sound character. Attendees will leave with specific techniques to bring back for use in classrooms and schools.





## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D.** is Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University, President of the International Society for Community Research and Action/Division of Community Psychology (27) of APA, Director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab, P. I. for the NJDOE-funded Safe and Civil Schools prevention initiative ([www.teachSECD.com](http://www.teachSECD.com)), and Founding Member of the Leadership Team for the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning ([www.CASEL.org](http://www.CASEL.org)). He is a NASP member and APA Div. 16 Fellow and member of NJASP. Books include Emotionally Intelligent Parenting (2000), Bullying, Peer Harassment, and Victimization in the Schools: The Next Generation of Prevention (Haworth, 2003), the Social Decision Making/Social Problem Solving Curricula for Elementary and Middle School Students (2006, [www.researchpress.com](http://www.researchpress.com)), The Educator's Guide to Emotional Intelligence and Academic Achievement: Social-Emotional Learning in the Classroom (Corwin, 2006) and Urban Dreams: Stories of Hope, Character, and Resilience (2008, Hamilton Books). He writes a blog on SECD for the George Lucas Educational Foundation at [www.edutopia.org](http://www.edutopia.org).

## INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

**Martin's Crosswinds** is conveniently located just off the Capital Beltway at the junctions of I-495 and I-295 off the Baltimore Washington Parkway at 7400 Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt, MD 20770 (301) 474-8500. Ask for the MSPA special rate at the **Holiday Inn Greenbelt** 301-982-7000 for Thursday night. Documentation of attendance will be provided for 5 contact hours of Continuing Education for Certified School Psychologists and Licensed Psychologists. The National Association of School Psychologists and the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists recognize MSPA as a sponsor of continuing education for psychologists. MSPA maintains responsibility for the program. The required annual MSPA general membership meeting will be held on Friday during the luncheon. Meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible and signing for the deaf can be arranged. Persons with questions or special needs should contact: Laura Shriver at 410-751-3122 or for an E-mail response, contact David Holdefer at [david\\_holdefer@mcpsmd.org](mailto:david_holdefer@mcpsmd.org).

Registration **must be postmarked by April 15, 2009**. *There is a \$25.00 additional fee for late registrants and for on-site registrations.* Cost for the workshop includes a banquet style luncheon. Full refunds are available by written request, but must be postmarked, e-mailed, or faxed by April 17, 2009. **If you want confirmation of your registration, please include a stamped, self-addressed postcard.** Your attendance certificate acts as your receipt (monetary receipts are available at the conference upon request). Registration is limited and accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Mail registration form to: MSPA Spring Registration, 3 Tigerwood Court, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if: *Licensed psychologist requesting Continuing Education Credit*

**Conference Fee: (Checks Payable to MSPA)**

- MSPA / MPA Member in Good Standing.....\$100.00
- Nonmember Fee .....\$150.00
- Full-time MSPA Student Members/Interns .....\$65.00
- Full-time Student Nonmembers/Interns.....\$75.00

\*If you wish to pay by credit card, register online at [MSPAonline.org](http://MSPAonline.org)

(Full-time students *not* employed as a psychometrist or psychologist)

Vendor \_\_\_\_\_ (Nonmember price) \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tables

Special Dietary Needs:  Diabetic Lunch Requested  Vegetarian Lunch Requested  Kosher Meal Requested

*MSPA reserves the right to substitute speakers in the event of an unforeseen emergency.*





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# MSPA

*DEDICATED TO THE NEEDS OF  
MARYLAND'S CHILDREN SINCE 1960*





*Maryland School Psychologists' Association*

# *Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D.*

Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University

## Safe Schools and the Link to Improving Academic Achievement

How to Solve School Violence by Creating a Common  
Prevention/Intervention Framework for Your School  
and  
Why Academic Success Depends on  
Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD)

## **MSPA SPRING CONFERENCE 2009**

**Friday, April 24, 2009**

**Martin's Crosswinds  
Greenbelt, Maryland  
Prince George's County**