



## **SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Initiative for Educators**

[Soaringwords'](#) SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Initiative is a seven-module, virtual, asynchronous program that will bolster resilience and productivity amongst educational communities and their team members. When an educational community participates in the program, they are given access to all modules to use throughout the year. The goal of this program is to enhance and elevate the positive culture amongst employees in order to amplify their resilience, wellbeing, and performance, which can also lead to superior student outcomes.

Each module is built upon the latest scientific discoveries from internationally recognized thought leaders. No other organization has synthesized such a wide array of relevant findings from wellbeing science into an award-winning, accessible workshop series. For the past 23 years, Soaringwords have led immersive workshops that motivate participants to fully engage in each session and make meaningful changes to enhance wellbeing in their work and personal lives.

### **Educational Workforce Challenges**

Since the COVID outbreak, communities are focused on responding to emerging, long-term mental health issues. As you well know, many educators are overwhelmed, burned-out, and experiencing post-traumatic stress. At Soaringwords, we appreciate that your educational community is facing the following challenges:

- New teachers are increasingly likely to leave the profession within the first five years, despite the intensive time and resources put into their training ([Nguyen, 2022](#))
- While teacher education prepares new teachers for their academic role, new teachers are not prepared for the mental health challenges that students bring and the emotional burden that they face in the classroom, which includes the need to maintain a professional appearance despite possible mistreatment by students, parents, other staff members, and school leadership (Hargreaves, 2000; Zapf, 2002)
- Stress within the classroom negatively impacts teachers' attention and concentration skills (Braunstein-Bercovitz, 2003; Mackenzie, Smith, Hasher, Leach, & Behl, 2007); reduces decision-making and communication skills (Shanafelt, Bradley, Wipf, & Back, 2002); decreases empathy (Beddoe & Murphy, 2004; Thompson & Waltz, 2007); and reduces their ability to engage in meaningful relationships (Enochs & Etzbach, 2004), even as these skills are critical for creating a safe environment for students
- Within schools, the focus is mostly on student mental health and wellbeing. Less focus is given to teacher and staff mental health and wellbeing. However, if teachers are unwell, then they cannot authentically deliver positive education materials to their students. A systems informed perspective is required that starts with the individual then extends out to others (Kern & Taylor, 2021; Kern & Wehmeyer, 2021)



### **Soaringwords' Empirically Based Solution**

Soaringwords' SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Initiative is a turn-key solution for educators teaching K-12 and at the tertiary level, providing your school with empirically based, proven programming. Shifts in participant wellbeing are measured through surveys based on the SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Model. A pre-program survey is given during module one. Participants complete follow-up surveys at the completion of each module, with a final survey given at the conclusion of the program. The results are aggregated to measure meaningful shifts in wellbeing and qualitative and quantitative data are shared in an Executive Summary. When educators in your workforce are seen and heard, it reinforces organizational values and norms, which leads to better communication and more effective high-performance teams. The Soaringwords program will positively impact the language and culture at your organization. As a result of completing these workshops, previous participants frequently reported increased belonging and commitment to their peers and the organization.

The results from Soaringwords empirical based initiatives in 2021-2022 include:

- Enhancing Resilience: 91.7% of participants reported a decrease in worry
- Amplifying Agency: 87.5% of participants reported an increase in pride
- Bolstering Self-Regulation: 100% of participants report decreased anger; 87.5% increase in joy; 75% increase in gratitude; 50% decrease in sadness

### **About Soaringwords**

Soaringwords' mission is to inspire individuals and professionals to take active roles in self-healing to experience greater physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing. Since 2000, Soaringwords has led social-emotional learning initiatives and educational programs in classrooms, school-wide assemblies, and after-school programs. Soaringwords is considered a best-practice partner by leading educational organizations such as KIPP Schools; dozens of public school systems including NYC, Indianapolis, and Chicago; and universities including Columbia, Barnard, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, Pace, Howard University, Montgomery Community College, and Universidad Tecmilenio. Soaringwords' interventions have been developed in collaboration with top educators at The Bank Street College and Teachers College at Columbia University. These initiatives have been shared with more than 500,000 people. Soaringwords has additionally led programs for marginalized communities experiencing health inequity or serious illness through partnerships with 196 hospitals around the world and health and human service agencies throughout North America. Additionally, Soaringwords has provided programs for 150,000 employees at Fortune 50 companies including Accenture, American Express, Cigna, Cisco, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Google, JetBlue, Johnson & Johnson, JPMorgan Chase, Lilly, Meta, New York Life, Sony, Verizon, and Viacom. Soaringwords was given the Chairman's Award at BNY Mellon, Growing with Technology Award from Cisco, and the Chairman's Award from Lilly.


The workshops are led by Lisa Honig Buksbaum, Soaringwords CEO & Founder. Author, social entrepreneur, and Positive Psychology thought leader, Lisa is a visionary driven by great passion and action. An intuitive healer, well-loved inspirational speaker, and expert



workshop leader and facilitator, Lisa has shared her wisdom with thousands of people throughout the world to help them enhance their lives with Positive Psychology insights and easy-to-use interventions. Three experiences with death and illness in her family during a ten-month period motivated her to launch Soaringwords. She is the author of *SOARING into Strength: Love Transcends Pain*, her debut memoir. Lisa graduated with an MBA in Marketing from Columbia University Graduate School of Business and a Master of Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) from The University of Pennsylvania where she also received her undergraduate degree with honors. She has a certificate in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a certificate from the American Institute for Mental Imagery. Lisa is president of the International Positive Psychology Association’s (IPPA) Positive Health and Wellbeing Division and serves on the Board of the Coincidence Project.

### SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Model

In 2012, Soaringwords codified its unique approach into a scientific model, which was published in 2013. This empirical data from Soaringwords initiatives has been presented at 17 international scientific conferences including with the International Positive Psychology Association, European Conference on Positive Psychology, and Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Soaringwords has also been featured in leading media including Good Morning America, USA Today, CEO to Watch in Chronicle of Philanthropy, and Fortune Small Business.



### SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Model

---

<b>Strengths</b>	Creating shifts in one's mind, body, relationships, and overall wellbeing.
<b>Optimism</b>	Choosing to look towards the good, even when times are difficult or painful, with hopeful expectation that things will be good in the future.
<b>Altruism</b>	Building community by giving to others without expectation of return.
<b>Resiliency</b>	Bouncing forward through challenges.
<b>Imagery</b>	Connecting to your inner self through reflection.
<b>Narrative</b>	Sharing the power of positive storytelling.
<b>Gratitude</b>	Noticing and appreciating the good things in and around you.



### **Additional Workshop Components**

Each workshop includes a customized workbook filled with immersive prompts to help participants reinforce key concepts to build confidence and resilience. As they apply the new Positive Psychology learnings, employees engage more deeply in their jobs and personal lives. The comprehensive Positive Dose Effect follow-up system includes three-minute reminder videos emailed to employees so they can continue to practice and internalize core concepts from each workshop. Participants are invited to create a pay-it-forward expressive arts/writing project as a peak emotional experience at the end of each workshop, synthesizing what they learned in each module. Projects are donated to patients in your health care system.

### **Next Steps**

You can learn more about Soaringwords and the SOARING Into Positive Wellbeing Initiative at [www.soaringwords.org](http://www.soaringwords.org). We welcome the opportunity to explore a win-win collaboration with your organization. Please email me [lisa@soaringwords.org](mailto:lisa@soaringwords.org). Our team is eager to inspire your Educational community to go from strength to strength as they experience greater resilience, agency, belonging, and hope by learning how to incorporate the latest Positive Psychology discoveries and insights to enhance their physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa".

Lisa Honig Buksbaum, CEO & Founder, Soaringwords