
Prepared by:

Office of Student Support Services
Division of Student Services and Career Readiness
New Jersey Department of Education

Annual School Violence Awareness Week

The authorizing statute (see page 11 of this document) and the regulations designate an annual School Violence Awareness Week in the state of New Jersey. School districts, charter schools and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSD) must observe this week by organizing activities to prevent school violence, including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity and tolerance. Law enforcement personnel must be invited to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions. Programs also must be provided for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence.

Guidance for All Public School Districts, Charter Schools and Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

• All public school districts, charter schools and APSSDs are required to annually designate the third week in October as School Violence Awareness Week.

• During this week, schools should provide an opportunity for students, parents and school district or charter school and law enforcement staff to discuss methods for keeping schools safe from violence; consider school safety and security plans; and learn to recognize students in need of help.

• Ideas to consider in promoting the importance of school safety include:
  o Discussions about school policies and procedures for addressing violence and school crises;
  o Identification and assessment of troubled youth;
  o Involvement of parents and other community members;
  o Dissemination of informational materials;
  o Infusion of violence awareness lessons into the academic curriculum;
  o Implementation of character education activities that endorse respect, responsibility and tolerance;
  o Use of keynote speakers with expertise in bullying prevention or related violence prevention topics;
  o Presentation of lessons on conflict resolution, peer mediation and bullying prevention by students; and
  o Training for school board employees in the areas of violence prevention and intervention, crisis response and related district policies and procedures.

• Public school districts, charter schools and APSSDs are required to invite law enforcement personnel to participate in the discussion of methods to keep schools safe from violence.
Activity Planning
Provided below are suggested guidelines for school staff to consider in planning for *School Violence Awareness Week*. Additionally, some available programs, publications, organizations and websites are included on pages 3 through 10 of this document to aide in planning.

Student Discussions
Schools are required to organize activities to prevent school violence, including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, bullying prevention, and issues of student diversity and tolerance. Law enforcement officers must be invited to join members of the school staff in the discussions.

School Employee Programs
Schools are required to provide programs for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs for school violence and to instruct them on policies, procedures and recommended conduct during an incident of school violence. A few web resources for information on warning signs are:
- [http://cecp.air.org/guide/guide.pdf](http://cecp.air.org/guide/guide.pdf);

Considerations in Planning Activities for Students
In planning activities with students, you might want to consider the following tips:
- Organize small-group activities as opposed to large-group presentations;
- Conduct student-centered rather than adult-centered activities;
- Plan activities that are age appropriate;
- Implement activities that build skills for non-violent responses to conflict; and
- Provide opportunities for follow-up and processing of information received to provide opportunities for questions, reinforcement of information or skills and to ensure understanding.

Resources
Provided below is a list of resources that may be helpful in planning activities for *School Violence Awareness Week*, as well as for improving the safety of schools. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of violence-related resources, but a diverse collection of supportive resources that school staff could review to determine the application of the information for their activities.

Organizations and Websites of Interest

**American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
Various resources dedicated to child and adolescent psychiatry.
[www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org)

**American Counseling Association**
Various resources dedicated to the social and emotional development of children.
[www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)
American Psychological Association
Various materials for educators, parents and children.
www.apa.org

American School Counselor Association
Listing of resources and additional links.
www.schoolcounselor.org

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Various materials, training, research and additional resources for educators.
www.ascd.org

Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence (Formerly the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence)
National initiatives include prevention programs for parents and youth on the risks associated with guns, legal representation for gun violence victims, and outreach to the entertainment community to encourage the de-glamorization of guns in the media.
http://www.bradycampaign.org/bradycenter

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The CDC provides a variety of fact sheets on violence and injury prevention.
http://www.cdc.gov/injury/

Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Serves as a primary resource for dealing with the problem of school violence. The Center's focus is on ensuring that schools are safe and secure for every student, and conducive to learning
http://test.ncdjdp.org/cpsv/

Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning
Provides research and publications on the relationship between social and emotional learning and school success.
www.casel.org

Cyberbullying Research Center (CRC)
The CRC provides up-to-date information about the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of cyberbullying among adolescents.
http://cyberbullying.us/

Family Education Network
Listing of resources and additional links.
http://familyeducation.com

Horatio Alger Association
Provides a comprehensive national survey report of America’s youth titled, The State of Our Nation’s Youth 2012-2013. This back-to-school survey examines the attitudes and opinions of America’s youth.
www.horatioalger.org/news_sony2012.cfm
**International Bullying Prevention Association**
This website provides bullying research and resources from around the world.
http://www.stopbullyingworld.org/

**Keys to Safer Schools**
This website equips teachers, students, parents, administrators and counselors with tools, training and materials.
http://www.keystosaferschools.com

**Knowledge Path: Adolescent Violence Prevention**
This online guide compiled by the Maternal and Child Health library at Georgetown University offers a selection of recent, high quality resources and tools for further research, including lists of websites, articles and print materials on adolescent violence.
http://mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolvio.html

**National Association of Elementary School Principals**
Various resources and additional links.
www.naesp.org

**National Association of School Psychologists**
Various resources related to violence for parents and educators.
http://www.nasponline.org/resources/factsheets/threatassess_fs.aspx

**National Association of School Resource Officers**
Various resources and additional links.
www.nasro.org

**National Center for School Engagement (NCSE)**
The NCSE provides training and technical assistance, research and evaluation to school districts, law enforcement agencies, courts, as well as state and federal agencies on student attendance, attachment and achievement.
www.schoolengagement.org/

**National Crime Prevention Council - Be Safe and Sound in School**
Be Safe and Sound is a public education campaign that seeks to raise awareness of school safety and security issues and provide concrete measures that parents, community members, and educators can take to make schools safer and more secure.
http://www.ncpc.org/programs/be-safe-and-sound-campaign/about

**National Education Association**
Listing of resources and additional links.
www.nea.org

**National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention**
Provides extensive information on youth violence prevention.
http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/preventing-youth-violence
National Institute of Mental Health
Contains in-depth links on trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder.
www.nimh.nih.gov/

National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)
Various resources, activities and additional links for educators, parents and youth.
www.pta.org

National School Climate Center (NSCC)
The NSCC helps schools integrate crucial social and emotional learning with academic instruction to enhance student performance, prevent dropouts, reduce physical violence, bullying, and develop healthy and positively engaged adults.
www.schoolclimate.org

National School Public Relations Association
Various resources and additional links.
www.nspra.org

National School Safety Center (NSSC)
The NSSC provides school communities and their school safety partners with quality information, resources, consultation, and training services.
www.schoolsafety.us/

New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)
- Administrative Code: Chapter 16, Programs to Support Student Development.
  Provides parameters for health and student support services, including Subchapter 5, School Safety.

- Keeping Our Kids Safe, Healthy and In School
  NJDOE’s resources on student behavior (including harassment, intimidation and bullying), safe and positive learning environments, student health, social services and afterschool programs.
  www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/

- School Preparedness and Emergency Planning
  NJDOE’s resources on school security.
  www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/training/topics.htm

New Jersey Education Association
Listing of resources and additional links.
www.njea.org

New Jersey School Counselor Association
Listing of resources and additional links.
www.njsca.org
Operation Respect: Don’t Laugh at Me
A non-profit organization dedicated to creating safe, caring and respectful environments for children.
http://www.operationrespect.org/index2.php/

Prevention Institute
Provides information on creating safe environments, and violence prevention strategies and programs.
http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-36/127.html

StopBullying.Gov
The federal government’s primary online resource for the prevention of bullying.
www.stopbullying.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Suicide Prevention, Awareness and Support
Provides information and resources on suicide and depression.
http://suicide.org/
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Resource</th>
<th>Description/Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bullying at School</td>
<td>Olweus, D., 1993 Wiley-Blackwell, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bullying in Schools</td>
<td>The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing <a href="http://www.popcenter.org/Problems/problem-bullying.htm">http://www.popcenter.org/Problems/problem-bullying.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing and Maintaining Safe Schools</td>
<td>North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, Naperville, ILL <a href="http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/issues.htm">www.ncrel.org/sdrs/issues.htm</a>, found under section heading of Safe and Drug Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Title</td>
<td>Agency and Website</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To get a free copy, contact toll free at (877) 433-7827 or download a copy from</td>
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<td><a href="http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/gtss.html">http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/gtss.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exemplary and Promising Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools Programs</td>
<td>United States Department of Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/exemplary01/panel.html">http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/exemplary01/panel.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program</td>
<td>United States Department of Justice</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.great-online.org/">http://www.great-online.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence</td>
<td>A publication of the Department of Homeland Security, which addresses</td>
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<td>prevention of school violence and crisis management.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov/docs/respondingtoschoolviolenceguide.pdf">http://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov/docs/respondingtoschoolviolenceguide.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping Children Deal With Scary News</td>
<td>PBS Kids, Family Communications, New York, NY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To download a free copy, visit</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pbs.org/parents/rogers/special/scarynews.html">www.pbs.org/parents/rogers/special/scarynews.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of Disaster on Children in our Schools: A Program for School Nurses</td>
<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Education and Training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Division, Center of Alcohol Studies, Piscataway, NJ.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To request a free copy of the CD contact (848) 445-4317.</td>
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<td>Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Program Guide</td>
<td>The OJJDP Model Programs Guide (MPG) is designed to assist practitioners and</td>
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<td>(OJJDP)</td>
<td>communities in implementing evidence-based violence prevention and intervention</td>
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<td>programs. The MPG database of evidence-based programs covers the entire</td>
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<td>continuum of youth services from prevention through sanctions to reentry.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg">http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing Bullying: Meeting The Challenge</td>
<td>TeachSafeSchools.org</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.teachsafeschools.org/bully.pdf">http://www.teachsafeschools.org/bully.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Report of the New Jersey Commission on Bullying in Schools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.state.nj.us/childadvocate/publications/PDFs/Bullying%20Report%20December%202009%20-%20%20Final.pdf">http://www.state.nj.us/childadvocate/publications/PDFs/Bullying%20Report%20December%202009%20-%20%20Final.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe, Supportive and Successful Schools: Step by Step</td>
<td>Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice <a href="http://cecp.air.org">http://cecp.air.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SourceBook of Drug and Violence Prevention Programs for Children and Adolescents</td>
<td><a href="http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vinjweb/publications/sourcebook/about_sourcebook.html">http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vinjweb/publications/sourcebook/about_sourcebook.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth and Violence: Students Speak Out for a More Civil Society</td>
<td>Families and Work Institute <a href="http://www.familiesandwork.org/">http://www.familiesandwork.org/</a></td>
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Applicable Statute

NEW JERSEY STATUTES ANNOTATED
TITLE 18A. EDUCATION
SUBTITLE 6. CONDUCT OF SCHOOLS
PART 2. FACILITIES AND CONDUCT OF SCHOOLS
CHAPTER 36. CONDUCT OF SCHOOLS IN GENERAL


The week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year is designated as "School Violence Awareness Week" in the State of New Jersey. School districts shall observe this week by organizing activities to prevent school violence including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion on conflict resolution, issues of student diversity, and tolerance. Law enforcement personnel shall be invited to join members of the teaching staff in the discussions. Programs shall also be provided for school board employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and to instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence. The Department of Education shall provide guidelines and information to boards of education for use in planning the activities in observance of the week and such funds as are necessary to pay the costs of the required activities and programs.