To: School Superintendents, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

Route to: Middle and High School Principals, Health Teachers, School Nurses, School Counselors

From: Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Date: April 12, 2019

Several years ago, the New Jersey Legislature passed the Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, also known as the “Safe Haven” Law.

The statute allows anyone to anonymously surrender an infant up to 30 days old to one of the state’s legally designated Safe Haven sites, which include hospital emergency rooms, police stations, fire departments, ambulance, first aid, and rescue squads that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Since its inception, the Safe Haven Law has saved the lives of 71 newborns, but the law’s effectiveness depends upon awareness and education.

Fortunately, our sister state agencies and system partners have long played a supportive, and key role in helping us spread the word about Safe Haven year after year.

As part of our mandate and ongoing efforts to educate students and the general public about Safe Haven, we ask that your schools share Safe Haven information and materials with school administrators, teachers, school nurses, social workers, guidance counselors and students to help us expand our reach.

For your convenience, our website provides a Safe Haven poster and brochure to be placed in common areas throughout your district’s middle and high schools where students will see them regularly, such as in hallways, health classrooms, nurses’ stations, the cafeteria and school bathrooms.

With your ongoing partnership, we can continue to ensure the safety and well-being of unwanted infants.

To learn more about Safe Haven, please visit http://njsafehaven.org/ or call the Safe Haven hotline at (877) 839-2339, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Safe Haven materials are available by visiting DCF’s Safe Haven webpage or by contacting DCF’s Office of Communications, Legislation and Public Affairs at (609) 888-7915. All materials are free of charge and are available in English and Spanish.

We thank you again for your partnership and for helping us raise awareness about this life saving law.