



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 10, 2022

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Supervisors

Route To: Business Administrators, Principals, Directors of Buildings and Grounds, School Safety Specialists, School Administration, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Faculty

From: Christopher Irving, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Support and Services

School-Based Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training

On August 1, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed into legislation, P.L. 2022, c. 83 (SCS for S2765 and ACS for A4075) requiring the establishment of threat assessment teams in public schools and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes. Accordingly, the board of education of each school district and the board of trustees of each charter school or renaissance school project shall develop and adopt a policy for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team at each school. Pursuant to P.L. 2022, c. 83, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in consultation with State law enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, shall develop guidelines for school districts, charter schools, and renaissance school projects regarding the establishment and training of threat assessment teams.

To provide school officials with this important information, the NJDOE is announcing Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management training for school communities through the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act Grant Program.

Participants of these virtual training sessions will gain an understanding of guiding principles regarding threat assessment and management, including how to identify and investigate threats and other concerning behavior in Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Participants will be provided step-by-step procedures related to gathering information to assess threats; and, where necessary, learning how to develop and implement plans to reduce risk and help maintain school safety, from national experts with experience investigating school threats and shootings.

Grounded in research, threat assessment is recognized as the current best practice for preventing targeted school-based violence. This one-day training course is intended for district administrators, teaching staff, school safety specialists, school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers, mental health professionals, school resources officers, local law enforcement, and other school personnel. LEAs are strongly encouraged to register multiple representatives.

School Safety Specialists who attend this event will receive appropriate hours toward certification renewal. Participants can register for this one-day virtual training session using the links below:

- [Thursday, August 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.](#)
- [Friday, August 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, August 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.](#)

Please note, if members of your LEA are unable to participate in these training sessions, additional course offerings will be available in the future. Questions can be directed to the Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning at school.security@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3574.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group