



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 26, 2022

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Directors of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: Directors of Student Services, School Administrators, Teachers, School Counselors, Social Workers, Student Assistance Coordinators, District Homeless Liaisons, School Psychologists, School Safety Specialists, School Nurses

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is proud to release the [Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students](#). Human trafficking is a heinous crime that has been reported in all 50 states and affects those of all genders, ages, races, nationalities, and socioeconomic statuses. Given that children and youth are common targets of exploitation, it is critical that school staff members are educated on the risk factors and behavioral indicators of trafficking. It is imperative that school staff are properly trained and prepared to respond to instances of suspected trafficking.

In alignment with [N.J.S.A. 18A:6-131.2 and 131.3](#), the NJDOE, in collaboration with the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Children and Families, and a working group of stakeholders, developed guidelines for schools focused on creating awareness of the dangers of human trafficking of children and youth as well as how best to prevent it.

The guidelines provide a brief introduction to the crime of human trafficking as well as information and best practices on the following:

- **Risk factors, recruitment methods, and behavioral indicators** associated with the human trafficking of youth;
- Strategies on the **prevention** of human trafficking within schools;
- Development and/or strengthening of **reporting and response protocols**;
- Procedures regarding the maintenance of **confidentiality and privacy**; and
- **Relevant and associated terms** to help with the understanding and identification of human trafficking.

In addition to a **Quick Reference Sheet** for school staff, the guidelines also provide resources to support schools in their awareness and prevention efforts including:

- Professional development opportunities;
- Training materials;
- Developmentally appropriate resources and curriculum;
- Trauma-informed considerations and resources; and
- Parent and family engagement resources.

We encourage districts and schools to review this guidance document and how its implementation can better protect and support the students of New Jersey. Please direct questions to safesupportiveschools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools