



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 25, 2022

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

Route To: School Safety Specialists

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Training and Resource Opportunities for School Safety and Security

The tragic events at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, serve as a stark reminder that school safety, preparedness, and security, requires the cooperation of the entire school community. The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) continues to work with school districts to protect the safety and security of all students and staff members.

The Department's Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning (OSPEP), in conjunction with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers, and other state and federal partners, supports Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and school leaders in the establishment and maintenance of school safety and security plans.

School-Based Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training Opportunity

OSPEP is facilitating a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) training for school communities to instruct participants in the guiding principles of threat assessment and management, including how to identify and investigate threats and other suspicious behavior in LEAs. Participants will be provided step-by-step procedures to gather information and assess threats; and, where necessary, learn how to develop and implement plans to reduce risk and help maintain school safety. Instructors of these trainings are national experts with experience investigating school threats and conducting research on school 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, school safety specialists, school psychologists, school counselors, mental health professionals, school resources officers, local law enforcement, and school personnel who are committed to school safety. LEAs are strongly encouraged to register multiple representatives from their district and schools.

Registration: Register for one of the following basic training sessions using the following links:

[Thursday, June 2 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.](#)

[Friday, June 3 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.](#)

Important reminders

The Department offers these reminders to consider when evaluating school security:

1. Review your access control measures and visitor policy with staff.
2. Ensure exterior doors are not propped open and remain locked.
3. Discuss safety with staff and students.
4. Review your school safety and security plans and procedures.

5. Expect incidents, threats, and rumors per the “contagion effect” that impacts communities after a highly publicized event. Social media will play a role. All threats should be taken seriously.
6. Reinforce relationships with emergency responders.
7. Expect questions and emotional response from the community. If necessary, utilize mental health resources.
8. Provide timely communication in emergent circumstances.

Online resources

Please visit the [OSPEP webpage](#) for additional information or to request technical assistance.

Contact the Department’s Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning at school.security@doe.nj.gov or (609) 588-2323, with any questions.

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