



To: Local Educational Agency Leads
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: September 07, 2022

September is designated as Safe Haven Awareness Month in New Jersey, recognizing that over two decades ago, the New Jersey Legislature passed the Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, which allows a parent or their designee to anonymously surrender a healthy infant up to 30 days old to one of the state's legally designated Safe Haven sites, including *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 80 newborns, but the law's effectiveness depends upon our ongoing awareness efforts and education.

Fortunately, many of our system partners across government and education have long played a supportive, and key role in helping us spread the word about Safe Haven year after year. In fact, since the 2020 school year, schools have been teaching students about the Safe Haven Law.

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

For your convenience, we offer 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.

Safe Haven materials are available by visiting DCF's [Safe Haven webpage](#) or by contacting DCF's Office of Communications at (609) 888-7915. All materials are free of charge and are available in English and Spanish.

We also invite you to share our Safe Haven materials on the school's website and social media accounts. 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.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us keep NJ families safe, healthy and connected.