



# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Nonpublic Schools  
Route to: Principals, School Nurses, Staff Involved with Community Outreach, Students, Guardians and Parents  
From: Sanford Starr, Assistant Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Children and Families  
Date: August 23, 2023  
Re: **Registration/Webinar Reminder**

Dear colleague,

Like you, we are eager and excited for the launch of the [NJ Statewide Student Support Services \(NJ4S\)](#) in just a couple of weeks. In preparation, Hubs have been focused on hiring staff, outreaching to communities and school districts, and forming their local advisory boards.

- *Staffing:* Leadership for each of the Hubs – the directors and assistant directors are all hired. When fully staffed, the network of Hubs will include 199 prevention consultants, 36 prevention consultant supervisors, and 64 clinicians and support staff. At this time, the Department continues to work to fill open positions as a result of staffing challenges facing the behavioral health workforce both in New Jersey and throughout the rest of the country. Recruitment of staff will remain a top priority for the Hubs.
- *Advisory Boards:* All Hubs have established local advisory boards and have either held or established a schedule for meetings.
- *Outreach:* Hubs have been reaching out to key community stakeholders and schools, collectively holding presentations, community information sessions, one-on-one introductory meetings, distributing needs assessment surveys and sending communications to schools.
- *Programming:* Hubs have been working to identify an initial set of evidence-based prevention programs for deployment in schools and/or other community locations, in response to anticipated applications for services.

As with any new program, there may be initial challenges as processes and procedures are implemented and as schools and Hubs become familiar with the information system used to apply for, deliver and track services. Schools experiencing issues should outreach their local Hub and advise DCF by emailing [NJ4Sfeedback@dcf.nj.gov](mailto:NJ4Sfeedback@dcf.nj.gov). We know that once fully functional, NJ4S will play a positive and necessary role in supporting youth well-being.

**As a reminder, public high schools, middle schools and the upper grades of K-8 schools (6-8 grades) interested in participating in NJ4S must identify and submit a school representative's contact details by using [this survey link](#).** Superintendents must register themselves or a delegate in order to access the dashboard that shows the districts' applications/services. Principals must register themselves or a delegate, AND a backup, in order to request services through the NJ4S information system.

**In addition, DCF is hosting two webinars on NJ4S for school leaders on August 23 at 10 a.m. and August 24 at 2 p.m.** The same information will be shared at each webinar, so interested parties only need to register for the session that's most convenient to them. Registration is still open for [the webinar session on August 23](#), or [the webinar session on August 24](#).