



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 9, 2023
RE: Save the Date: New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) Program

Dear colleague,

As you likely know, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families has launched a statewide, innovative hub-and-spoke model of services and resources to support youth mental wellness. This model, the [NJ Statewide Student Support Services](#) (NJ4S) network, has [15 regional hubs](#) that will provide specialized prevention and brief intervention services to students and parents/caretakers, as well as consultation to school faculty to public schools that apply. It will also provide universal prevention interventions that benefit students throughout the state, including workshops, webinars, assemblies and trainings at no cost, and without the need for an application.

The hubs will be mobilized to deliver services locally, when and where they are requested, both in school and community settings. They will utilize the [School District Needs Index](#), a ranking of districts, to prioritize service provision and manage requests and capacity issues. In addition, hub staff will have the ability to connect students and their parents/caregivers with other community resources beneficial to social, emotional, and mental health and well-being, including clinical and non-clinical supports.

The [NJ4S Hubs](#) have been reaching out to school districts and are eager to connect with you if they have not already done so.

How Will Schools Access NJ4S Services?

NJ4S includes three levels of service: (1) Universal Prevention Services; (2) Evidence-based Prevention Interventions, and (3) Assessment and Brief Intervention. Universal prevention services will be available to all students without any need for application. Middle and High Schools that include 6-12th graders must apply to receive evidence-based prevention interventions, and assessment and brief intervention services for their students. Elementary Schools that include 6-8th or 9th grade students are also eligible to apply for services for middle or high school students (6th – 8th or 9th graders).

DCF will be sharing information in upcoming DOE Broadcast memos about how schools can apply for services.

Save the Date!

DCF will soon be hosting webinars that provide more information and updates about NJ4S to school leaders.

Webinars will be held August 23 at 10 a.m. and August 24 at 2 p.m. Registration information will be forthcoming in a future DOE Broadcast memo. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, please visit the [NJ Statewide Student Support Services website](#) for basic information, an FAQ, previous webinars and other news.