



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 13, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSDs)
Route To: Principals, School Safety Specialists
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Release of the 2023-2024 Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the release of the revised Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA). The 2023 version of the MOA was developed by the Education and Law Enforcement Working Group to address new laws, policies, and procedures. While a summary of all revisions can be found on the NJDOE website, the 2023 MOA contains edits intended to:

- Reduce the possibility of bias toward students and improve the reporting of those incidents.
- Outline the use of body worn cameras by officers who work inside of schools or respond to a school.
- Address articles regarding marijuana based on the decriminalization of marijuana and creation of regulated cannabis, including mandated reporting, changes to medical cannabis policy, and police procedure for interacting with students.

The MOA is an important document that represents the joint commitment of education and law enforcement officials to work together to support the building of safe learning environments where all students can thrive. The annually required review of the MOA provides an opportunity for education and law enforcement officials to reaffirm this commitment to work collaboratively as partners, discuss the effectiveness of current processes, and revise procedures as necessary. It is important for all school officials to be familiar with the provisions of the MOA.

All local educational agencies and approved private schools for students with disabilities are required to adopt and implement this revised MOA for the 2023-2024 school year. A copy of the 2023 MOA, guidance for the annual review procedures and summary of the revisions are available on the [Education-Law Enforcement MOA webpage](#).

Should you have additional questions, please contact the NJDOE's Office of Student Support Services at SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov.

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