



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 20, 2023

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

Route To: Principals, Anti-Bullying Coordinators, Anti-Bullying Specialists, School Safety/School Climate Team Members

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Anti-Bullying Task Force Announces Dates for Public Testimony

New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Task Force (ABTF) will host two public hearings, one in-person and one virtual session, to provide families, students, and other stakeholders an opportunity to share experiences regarding the implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* in New Jersey schools.

Hearing from individuals who have been affected by New Jersey's anti-bullying law will greatly inform the work of the task force who is charged with examining its impact and making recommendations for improving the way that harassment, intimidation, and bullying is addressed in schools. Insight gained from the sessions may be incorporated into the ABTF's upcoming report.

Individuals who are interested in providing public testimony may register for one of the hearings listed below. There is no fee to attend these events, however registration is required by September 29, 2023, and space is limited. It is recommended that any person seeking to provide public testimony also submit a written statement by emailing ABTF2023@doe.nj.gov. Should an individual not be able to participate in a live hearing, they are still encouraged to submit written testimony by emailing the account described above.

In-Person Hearing

Date: October 4, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey

Accessibility: The NJDOE is located near a [NJ TRANSIT](#) train station and is [NJ TRANSIT](#) bus accessible. Parking is also readily available.

Registration: Attendees must register [here](#).

Note: Individuals will have up to three minutes to provide testimony.

Virtual Hearing

Date: October 5, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams. A link will be emailed to all registrants prior to the hearing.

Registration: Attendees must register [here](#).

Note: Individuals will have up to three minutes to provide testimony.

Key steps/actions

Local educational agencies are encouraged to share information regarding the hearings directly with parents and students by distributing the [ABTF Public Hearing Flyer](#) and posting on websites and social media platforms.

For questions pertaining to the ABTF's public hearings, please email ABTF2023@doe.nj.gov.

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