



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 25, 2024

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

Route To: Principals, Anti-Bullying Coordinators, Anti-Bullying Specialists, School Safety/School Climate Team Members, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Safety Specialists, School Social Workers, Student Assistance Coordinators

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## Week of Respect 2024

The [Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act](#) designates the week beginning with the first Monday in October (October 7-11, 2024) as the Week of Respect. The Week of Respect provides school districts with an opportunity to recognize the importance of social and emotional learning (SEL) while placing emphasis on age-appropriate instruction that focuses on the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). This week supports the role of the School Safety/School Climate Team as they work to fulfill their requirement to develop, foster and maintain a positive school climate.

### Key steps/actions

To observe this week, school districts are required to provide age-appropriate instruction focusing on HIB prevention. Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities are encouraged, but not required, to observe this week.

### Additional Information

The [NJDOE's Week of Respect Compendium of Resources](#) provides information for school districts as they work to plan their Week of Respect observance. Additionally, school districts may find the following resources helpful:

- [NJDOE's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Webpages](#)
- [NJDOE's Social and Emotional Learning Webpage](#)
- [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#)
- [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center: Classroom Education and Activities](#)
- [StopBullying: Prevention at School](#)

In celebration of the Week of Respect, the Department is providing two webinar opportunities in October for school district staff members who are engaged in school climate improvement initiatives and HIB prevention programming.

### Informing School Climate Improvement through NJ SCI

October 9, 2024, from 12:00-1:30 pm

- This 90-minute webinar will provide information to school district staff members who are interested in learning how the [New Jersey School Climate Improvement \(NJ SCI\) Survey and Platform](#) can inform their school climate improvement efforts.
- [Registration information.](#)

## **Selecting Evidence-Based Bullying Prevention Interventions based on School Climate Data**

October 28, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- This 90-minute webinar will provide information to school district staff members who are interested in learning more about the data points relevant to school climate improvement and strategies for selecting evidence-based HIB-prevention programs and interventions.
- [Registration information.](#)

### **Contact Information**

For questions related to the Week of Respect, please email the Office of Student Support Services at [SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov](mailto:SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov).

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