



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 8, 2025

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

Route To: Principals, Directors of Student Services, Supervisors of School Counseling, School Counselors, School Social Workers, Athletic Directors, Health Teachers

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Human Trafficking Prevention Reminders

As New Jersey prepares to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, it is important to think ahead to the critical role our schools play in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and school communities. Large-scale international events, while exciting and unifying, can also create increased risks for human trafficking and exploitation – especially among vulnerable youth. We urge schools to remain vigilant, informed, and proactive in supporting awareness and prevention efforts. By raising awareness, educating staff, students, and caregivers, and partnering with local organizations, schools can support safe, supportive environments that help protect students from potential harm and reinforce the shared responsibility within our communities to keep youth safe during this global event.

Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Guidelines for Schools

One helpful resource for schools is the [Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students](#), which was released by the New Jersey Department of Education in 2022. These guidelines help to educate on what human trafficking is, associated risk factors, behavioral indicators, recruitment methods, and how schools can respond should there be a suspicion. Additionally, the guidelines include a section on prevention strategies as well as a resource section that provides staff with professional development opportunities, training and curriculum resources, and human trafficking assistance information.

To access the guidelines and other human trafficking resources and materials, please visit the [NJDOE's Human Trafficking webpage](#).

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

With the World Cup approaching, it is imperative that all students receive pertinent age-appropriate prevention education. For students in grades K-5, this may include a focus on building a foundation of safety and healthy boundaries, identifying trusted adults, as well as online safety basics. For students in grades 6-12, this may look like building upon earlier education around physical and online safety and social skill development (e.g., responsible decision-making and healthy relationships), as well as receiving curriculum and instruction specific to human trafficking and in alignment with the [2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health](#)

[and Physical Education](#) (2020 NJSLS-CHPE). This could include having an awareness of related state and federal laws, understanding the strategies that traffickers employ to recruit youth, including those that occur online, and how to get help should they need it.

Resources for Families

Schools are encouraged to share resources with families, especially those with student athletes, that provide information on creating healthy, athletic environments that prevent abuse. The following parent resources are aimed at protecting the safety of child athletes.

- [What Parents Need to Know: Grooming in Sports](#)
- [Parent and Guardian's Handbook for Safer Sport](#)
- [SafeToCompete Best Practices for Parents](#)

Contact Information

For questions specific to the NJSLS requirements, please contact the Office of Standards at CHPE@doe.nj.gov. For questions regarding the *Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students*, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov or by phone at (609) 376-9109.

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