



State of New Jersey

PHIL MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY, ESQ.
Lt. Governor

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Nonpublic Schools

Route to: Principals, School Nurses, Staff Involved with Community Outreach, Students, Guardians and Parents

From: The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council

Date: September 3, 2025

RE: Youth Mental Health

The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council was established by law in 2004 to make recommendations to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) regarding service needs and service gaps related to youth suicide reporting, prevention, and intervention. Further, the Council raises awareness about available resources for New Jersey students and families, in partnership with the State's public school system, to reduce incidences of suicide throughout the state.

The Council strongly encourages all New Jersey school districts to post information about the Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care (CSOC) for emotional, behavioral, addiction, and developmental disability programs and services on the home page of their school's website and portal, as the primary resource for parents. At a time when so many children and youth are experiencing emotional and mental health crises, too many New Jersey families still have little to no awareness of what the CSOC can offer.

Mental health concerns and suicide risk for our youth have reached an urgency we have not seen this generation. September is Suicide Prevention Month, but these resources need to be shared throughout the year. We are asking you to share this information with educators, families, the Board of Education, community partners, elected officials, and anyone else who can benefit from this important information.

www.nj.gov/dcf

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List of Resources

- [Children's System of Care | 877-652-7624 | Public Service Announcement](#)
- [988](#) is the 24/7 Suicide & Crisis hotline available via call, text, or chat.
- [Prevent Suicide NJ](#), for educators, families, youth, and community partners to access resources and training.
- [Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide Parent & Caregiver Toolkit](#)
- [The NJ Statewide Student Support System](#) (NJ4S) allows registered middle and high schools to request tiered wellness supports for students.
- [2nd Floor Youth Helpline](#), which offers call, message board, and text options for youth to connect to live, emotional support counselors. Students can also download the 2nd Floor app to have resources on their phone.
- [Traumatic Loss Coalition](#) (TLC) offers support to communities affected by traumatic events such as suicides, violence, and tragedy.