



School Violence Awareness Week

October 18-22, 2021

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1 requires that all school districts, charter schools, Renaissance school projects and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs), designate the week beginning with the third Monday in October of each year as School Violence Awareness Week in New Jersey. This week affords a great opportunity for districts and schools to bring staff, students, parents, and law enforcement together to be active participants in the important work of violence prevention and school safety. With schools returning to in-person learning this year, this week also presents the opportunity to address new challenges that may have arisen or been identified related to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Requirements of School Violence Awareness Week pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1*

- During this week, schools are required to provide students, parents, school district staff and law enforcement opportunities to discuss methods for keeping schools safe from violence, to consider school safety and security plans; and to learn how to recognize students in need of help. Activities should address preventing school violence, including, but not limited to, age-appropriate opportunities for student discussion about conflict resolution, bullying prevention and issues of student diversity and tolerance.
- Law enforcement personnel must be invited to join members of the teaching staff in the discussion of methods to keep schools safe from violence.
- Programs also must be provided for school employees that are designed to help them recognize warning signs of school violence and instruct them on recommended conduct during an incident of school violence.

Sample Student Activities

- Students can complete activities or create public service announcements on a variety of related topics such as [cyberbullying](#), being an [upstander](#), or knowing who is a [trusted adult](#).
- Hold sessions promoting positive self-management and regulation through the use of mindfulness, breathing exercises, or other trauma-sensitive techniques.
- Conduct age-appropriate small group activities on conflict resolution and peer mediation.
- Students can promote positive prevention messaging through sidewalk chalking. Students can then take pictures and share their messages with their educators and peers.

Resources

Staff Training on Recognizing Warning Signs

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Preventing School Violence](#)
- [American Psychological Association Warning Signs of Youth Violence](#)
- [Safe, Supportive and Successful Schools Step by Step](#)
- [National School Safety and Security Services Warning Signs of Youth Violence](#)

Violence Prevention

- [National Youth Violence Prevention Week Action Kit](#)
- [A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors](#)
- [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists](#)

Additional Planning Resources

Resource	Description	For Educators	For Parents	For Students
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Resources dedicated to child and adolescent psychiatry.	X	X	X
American Counseling Association	Resources dedicated to the social emotional development of children.	X	N/A	N/A
American Psychological Association	Resources dedicated to psychology.	X	N/A	N/A
American School Counselor Association	Additional links to resources.	X	X	X
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	A variety of materials, training, research and additional resources.	X	N/A	N/A
Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence	Prevention programs for parents and youth on risks associated with guns.	N/A	X	X
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Variety of fact sheets on violence prevention.	X	X	X
Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning	Research and publications on Social Emotional Learning.	X	X	X
Cyberbullying Research Center (CRC)	Up-to-date information about the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of cyberbullying among adolescents.	X	X	X
Keys to Safer Schools	Provides tools, training and materials.	X	X	X
National Association of Elementary School Principals	Additional links to resources.	X	N/A	N/A
National Association of School Psychologists	Resources related to violence prevention for parents and educators.	X	X	N/A
National Association of School Resource Officers	Additional links to resources.	X	N/A	N/A
National Center for School Engagement (NCSE)	NCSE provides training and technical assistance, research and evaluation to school districts, law enforcement agencies and courts, as well as state and federal agencies, on student attendance, attachment and achievement.	X	N/A	N/A
National Crime Prevention Council- Be Safe and Sound in School	Be Safe and Sound is a public education campaign that seeks to raise awareness of school safety and security issues and to provide concrete measures that parents, community members and educators can take to make schools safer and more secure.	X	X	X
National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention	Provides extensive information on youth violence prevention.	X	X	X
National Institute of Mental Health	Contains in-depth links on trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).	X	X	X
National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)	Provides various resources, activities and additional links for educators, parents and youth.	X	X	X
National School Safety Center (NSSC)	The NSSC provides school communities and their school safety partners with quality information, resources, consultation and training services.	X	N/A	N/A
Prevention Institute	Provides information on creating safe environments, violence prevention strategies and programs.	X	N/A	N/A
Sandy Hook Promise	An organization committed to driving and sustaining positive change in protecting children from gun violence in schools.	X	X	X