



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P.O. Box 700
Trenton, NJ 08625

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

March 16th, 2026

RE: Guidance to public and higher education institutions on P.L. 2025, c.112

Dear Educators:

This letter provides guidance to implement [P.L. 2025, C.112](#), which was signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy on July 22, 2025.

Student identification cards are now required by law to have updated information on mental health and suicide crisis resources beginning this upcoming school or academic year. This applies to a public school that includes any of the grades seven through 12 and that issues student identification cards and institutions of higher education that issue student identification cards. The new law permits the information to be determined by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education. This accounts for the rollout of 988 and provides future flexibility without changing statute.

988 is the nationwide 3-digit dialing code and response network for Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention. [988 is available by call, text or chat](#) 24 hours a day, every day of the year and connects people to a continuum of care.

The information listed on the back of applicable student identification cards shall include:

“Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Call, Text, Chat 988. (Chat.988lifeline.org)”

Understanding that formatting and available space on identification cards may be challenging, institutions should incorporate the number and information as best as possible.

Other crisis lines may include:

- Institution-specific counseling services: please continue to list contact information for counseling or mental health resources your institution provides directly or through a contracted vendor.
- 2ND FLOOR Youth Helpline 1-888-222-2228: a confidential helpline for NJ youth and young adults, between the ages of 10 and 24. Youth can download the app, call, text, or visit the comprehensive message board to connect with peer and counselor support.

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- 24/7 Addiction Helpline 1-844-REACHNJ (1-844-732-2465): a central call line for New Jersey residents who are looking for help with a substance use disorder. ReachNJ serves NJ residents of all ages regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Additionally, you may access free materials such as posters and notecards to promote 988 at the following website: [SAMHSA Partner Toolkit Items](#).

Thank you for your partnership and dedication in serving students and residents across New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Cha", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Cha, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

C: Margo Chaly, Acting Secretary of Higher Education
Lily Laux, Commissioner of Education