



## State of New Jersey

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# Media Release

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## **“Sexual Predator Awareness Training” Offers Vital Info On Keeping Kids Safe**

*NJ State Parole Board partners with NJ Association of School Resource Officers,  
Hackensack High School to Educate Teachers, Parents*

HACKENSACK – Parole officers from the State Parole Board’s Sex Offender Management Unit today conducted an extensive and detailed “Sexual Predator Awareness Training” for teachers, school professionals and parents at Hackensack High School.

The seminar was provided through Parole’s partnership with the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO). It was the first in a series of such presentations the State Parole Board and NJASRO plan to offer at schools across New Jersey.

Chairman Yolette C. Ross of the State Parole Board said, “New Jersey’s parole officers use the best available practices, including GPS tracking and polygraph testing, to supervise convicted sex offenders and fulfill one of the most challenging law enforcement assignments in America. We are proud to work with the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers and Hackensack High School to arm teachers and parents with the best available education and awareness.”

NJASRO President and Saddle River Detective Tim Gerity said, “From leadership on homeland security, street gang awareness and the dangers of sexual predators, the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers is committed to the safety of schools and children. Our partnership with the State Parole Board will help raise awareness of this important topic throughout New Jersey.”

Hackensack High School Principal Mark Porto said, “We are proud to work with the State Parole Board and School Resource Officers to promote a clear and sober understanding of the ways parents and teachers can communicate with each other and with children, to help keep them safe. This is an important part of our dedication to promote our students’ safety, well-being and ultimate success.”

The parole officers’ presentation was provided by Captain Steven Tallard of the State Parole Board’s Sex Offender Management Unit and Electronic Monitoring Unit, and by Senior Parole Officers Ryan Andresen and Michael Filosa of the Sex Offender Management Unit.

The training covered a wide variety of subjects including:

- Actual case studies that illustrate how sexual predators seek victims. This includes the unexpected ways some offenders have succeeded in tracking and luring victims via the Internet, as well as the dangers of sexual abuse by the relatives of young children, and the use of date rape drugs and other forms of sexual coercion to which teenagers may fall victim

- Statistics and clinical data to dispel myths about sex offenders, and provide a real picture of the risks, sexual predators' typical offense cycle, the most common relationships of abusers to children, and the ways abusers groom children
- Important advice for parents and teachers related to Internet safety, safety at parties, safety with strangers and safety with family members. (See the attached fact sheet for a list of free, downloadable resources available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children).

The State Parole Board is New Jersey's lead law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. The agency uses the Containment Approach for sex offender supervision, a model based on nationwide research and best practices. The Containment Approach includes intensive parole supervision and intelligence sharing with partner law enforcement agencies on the federal, state and local levels. It includes sex offender-specific counseling treatment, and close collaboration with qualified therapists. It includes round-the-clock GPS monitoring of New Jersey's highest-risk sex offenders, letting officers track and record their every movement. It also includes polygraph testing, which helps parole officers detect problem behaviors and intensify their supervision as appropriate

Under State law, the vast majority of sex crimes committed on or after October 31, 1994 result in lifetime supervision by the State Parole Board. As a result, the agency's caseload of more than 5,600 sex offenders is one of the largest in America. More information about the State Parole Board's sex offender management can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/parole/somu.html>

The New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO) is a membership network of law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security/safety professionals throughout the great state of New Jersey. With more and more focus on homeland security, school resource officers are an important element to school safety, and are role models for our children. NJASRO is rapidly growing as school based policing has become the fastest growing area of law enforcement.

Hackensack High School is a learning community that fosters an appreciation for cultural diversity, intellectual growth, and individual diligence. The school strives to prepare students to accept life's challenges by encouraging them to be open-minded, reflective, life-long learners who have integrity and respect for others. Hackensack High School, in partnership with home and community, will develop citizens who make a difference in their community. Hackensack High School administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, and staff members are committed to making sure that every student graduating from Hackensack High School has a career plan that includes an educational component either on-the-job or in an educational setting (military, technical, two-or four-year college or apprenticeship).

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct approximately 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB's sworn parole officers supervise more than 16,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

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## Sexual Predator Awareness Training Additional Resources

The following free, downloadable resources are available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):

- **KNOW THE RULES:** General Tips for Parents and Guardians to Help Keep Children Safer: [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC60.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC60.pdf)
- **KNOW THE RULES:** Internet Safety Quiz for Parents: [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz.pdf)
- Additional Resources for **Parents and Guardians:** [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=200](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=200)
- Additional Resources for **Law Enforcement:** [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=184](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=184)
- **More** publications: [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ResourceServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=0](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ResourceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=0)

Recursos en Español:

- **CONOCE LAS REGLAS:** Consejos Generales Para Los Padres, Abuelos Y Guardianes Para Ayudar A Sus Hijos A Estar Más Seguros: [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC138.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC138.pdf)
- **CONOCE LAS REGLAS:** Cuestionario Para Adultos Sobre Seguridad En Internet: [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz\\_S.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz_S.pdf)
- **Más Información** en Español: [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=es\\_US&PageId=1888](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=es_US&PageId=1888)

