



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Acting Commissioner

September 26, 2011

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders
Administrators of an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities

FROM: Susan Martz, Director
Office of Student Support Services

SUBJECT: Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness Week

Since 2003, schools and districts have been observing School Violence Awareness Week during the week beginning with the third Monday in October, which is **October 17-21 in 2011**, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1. To help school districts, charter schools and private schools for the disabled comply with these requirements, the New Jersey Department of Education has provided guidance that is available on line at:
<http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/behavior/violence.shtml>.

Additionally, this year, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122) requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October (**October 3-7 in 2011**) of each year be designated as a "Week of Respect" in New Jersey. School districts and charter schools, in order to recognize the importance of character education, are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on preventing harassment, intimidation or bullying. To facilitate your planning, the following resources are available on the NJDOE's website:

1. The Keeping Our Kids Safe, Healthy and in School website under the Safe and Positive Learning Environment tab (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/sandp/>) includes resources about positive learning environments, as well as those specific to character and social development.
2. The Core Curriculum Content Standards website (<https://www13.state.nj.us/NJCCCS/>) provides information on integrating concepts into curricular areas and specific Cumulative Progress Indicators in the Health and Physical Education, Social Studies and Technology Standards, as well as links to other resources.
3. Available on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education website (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/>), the new 911 curriculum, *Learning From The Challenges Of Our Times*, and the K-4 Holocaust Genocide Curriculum. Both

guides stress the importance of respecting diversity and appreciation of others and provide lesson plans that stress the importance of respect for others and how to deal with issues of prejudice and bias in the classroom.

We hope that you find the resources helpful in your planning. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services, at (609) 292-5935.

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Attachment

c: Christopher Cerf
Andrew Smarick
Dave Hesse
Barbara Gantwerk
Senior Staff
Justin Barra
Gary Vermeire
LEE Group
NJ Garden State Coalition of Schools
Executive County Superintendents