



PHIL MURPHY  
*Governor*

## State of New Jersey

TAHESHA L. WAY, ESQ.  
*Lt. Governor*

Dear Superintendent,

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 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 a 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.

**Tel: 877-652-7624**

Web: [nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/dcsc/](http://nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/dcsc/)

On YouTube: <https://youtu.be/KgA7ms-kwoo>

In addition, the following resources should also be widely shared with your school community:

- [\*\*988\*\*](#) is the new three-digit number that routes callers to the Suicide & Crisis hotline.
- [\*\*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), which allows registered middle- and high-schools to request tiered wellness supports for students.
- [\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Youth Helpline\*\*](#), which offers call, message board and text options for youth to connect to live, emotional support counselors.
- [\*\*Traumatic Loss Coalition\*\*](#) (TLC) offers support to communities affected by traumatic events such as suicides, violence and tragedy.

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 should be distributed throughout the year. We are asking you to share this important information with educators, families, your Board of Education, community partners, elected officials, and anyone else who can benefit.

Sincerely,  
The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council

*[www.nj.gov/dcf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf)*