



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 5, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Principals, School Counselors, Student Assistance Coordinators
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: June 14, 2024

New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council Seeks Insight on Suicide Prevention Instruction

Schools play a crucial role in preventing youth suicide by identifying at-risk students through regular interactions and offering essential support services like counseling and mental health education. New Jersey continues to have relatively low rates of youth suicide compared to other states. This highlights the importance of continuing to invest in and refine youth suicide prevention measures. This memo presents an opportunity to collect and share efforts implemented in New Jersey's schools that can inform future strategies to further reduce the risk of youth suicide while enhancing student well-being for students across the state.

The [New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council](#) is preparing a comprehensive report on suicide prevention instruction in schools. Your participation is crucial in providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of current programs and feedback on what strategies are needed to support our students' mental health. To best inform this work, the council encourages one representative from every school to complete a brief survey describing current suicide prevention efforts taking place in their school. The [Microsoft Forms Survey](#) should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Pursuant to P.L. 2023, c. 270, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is supporting the council to complete this important work. Following the end of the survey administration window, the NJDOE will aggregate the data and remove any identifying information. The overall results will provide essential insights to help the council understand and support schools' efforts to prevent youth suicide.

Key Actions

- Share the Survey with School Principals:** The survey is school-based and should be completed by one representative from each school.
- Complete the Survey:** The school principal or designee who has the greatest knowledge of the school's suicide prevention efforts should complete the [Microsoft Forms Survey](#) by June 14, 2024.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to this important initiative. Your contributions will make a significant impact on our efforts to prevent youth suicide and promote a safe and supportive school environment for all students. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student Support Services via SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group