



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 29, 2022

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Principals, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Supervisors, School Counselors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Student Assistance Coordinators, Health Educators

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

New Online Safety Resource for Parents and Caregivers

In recognition of the month of June as National Internet Safety Month, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to share with districts a new resource developed in partnership with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect aimed to assist parents and caregivers in keeping children safe while online.

Children and youth have greater access to internet-capable devices than ever before. While internet and social media platforms can play valuable roles in supporting learning and education, connecting with peers and loved ones, and engaging in forms of entertainment, there are also dangers associated with their use. These risks highlight the need for parents and caregivers to understand how to keep youth safe as they navigate these online spaces in safe and positive ways.

[Keeping Children and Youth Safe While Connected: Online Safety Tips for Parents & Caregivers](#), which is found on the NJDOE's Office of Student Support Services student safety [webpage](#), educates and provides resources to caregivers regarding online safety risks and what to do should a concern arise. This resource also focuses on ways for parents and caregivers to create opportunities for positive connection and open communication, as well as dialogue with their children regarding online safety.

Schools are encouraged to utilize this resource by:

- Posting a link to the handout on the parent/guardian section of your school website or the parent portal of a student's digital backpack.
- Having printouts available at parent events such as back-to-school night or parent-teacher conferences.
- Sharing with your local Parent Teacher Association (PTA or PTO), on your school social media platforms, or through an email blast.
- Offering a parent presentation utilizing the included information.

For questions regarding this resource, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at (609) 376-9109 or SafeSupportiveSchools@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
NJDOE Staff

NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network