



PARENT ACADEMY



A partnership between Bayonne School District and NJPSA/FEA

Presentations are open to all parents with students in Grades PreK - 12 and take place at Bayonne High School in the Alexander X. O'Connor Auditorium from 6PM - 7PM

Monday, October 17 - The Difference between Conflict and Bullying

Learning how to interact and sometimes disagree with your peers is a critical aspect of social development for all students. Unfortunately, this type of conflict is often mistaken for bullying.

In this session, participants will learn about the key differences between typical student conflict and bullying, as defined by New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. The session will include sample scenarios highlighting key differences between conflict and bullying, and key differences in how to effectively respond to bullying versus conflict.

Thursday, November 17 - Understanding New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

New Jersey has enacted one of the most comprehensive, and complicated, anti-bullying laws in the nation.

In this session, participants will learn how New Jersey defines harassment, intimidation and bullying, the reporting and investigation requirements that apply, the due process rights available to parents and students, and important revisions to New Jersey law that went into effect in July, 2022. This session will include sample scenarios to help understand what constitutes bullying under New Jersey law.

Monday, January 9 - Addressing Cyberbullying and Internet Safety

In the age of social media, and in the aftermath of a global pandemic, our society is increasingly relying on electronic communication as a central form of social interaction. While this creates important new opportunities to expand knowledge and build meaningful relationships, it has also led to an increase in cyberbullying and increased the potential for children to be targeted in various ways.

In this session, participants will learn about the line between cyberbullying and protected First Amendment expression through social media and other forms of electronic communication. Participants will also learn about other key aspects of internet safety, and resources that can help parents to work with and protect their children.

Monday, February 6 - Addressing Student Substance Use

While student experimentation with alcohol and other substances has always been a challenge, recent societal events, the emergence of vaping, and the legalization of marijuana use for adults has altered the landscape in important ways.

In this session, participants will learn about the most recent trends in student substance use, the health impact of student use of various substances on brain development, the legal rights and obligations related to addressing substance use, and key strategies for working with schools to support students.



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Tuesday, March 7- Addressing Social and Emotional Needs of Children

As students struggle to deal with traumatic experiences in their personal lives and larger societal issues, it is more important than ever for schools and families to work together to support the emotional wellbeing of students.

In this session participants will learn: about the legal protections available to students who are struggling with mental health issues, strategies for sharing information between schools, families and other outside providers in order to best support students, tips for supporting students during the reentry process after an extended absence from school, signs to look for that a student may be in distress and need immediate support, and available resources.

Tuesday, April 18 - Bringing It All Together: Effective Parent and Staff Communication

Whether the issue is bullying, cybersafety, substance use, and/or addressing social and emotional wellbeing, maintaining open lines of communication and developing trust between families and school staff is vital to supporting students.

This session will review and reinforce key points from prior sessions in the Parent Academy, explore ways to maximize information sharing while protecting student privacy and confidentiality, provide examples of constructive information sharing, and offer tips for working through areas of concern and/or disagreement with staff.

Pre-Recorded Session - Key Aspects of Supporting LGBTQ+ Children

This session will review the legal protections available for LGBTQ+ students, the most recent guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education outlining parent and student rights and school district responsibilities, including how to address issues related to changes in student names and gender markers, access to locker rooms and restrooms, and protections against discrimination that are available under state and federal law. Participants will also learn about new curriculum requirements addressing gender identity and sexual orientation. Finally, participants will learn about resources available to support LGBTQ+ students, including a model Gender Support Plan and Gender Communications Plan.