



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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JOHN J. NIESZ
Superintendent

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Dear BBOED Family,

Youth violence can have lasting harmful effects on victims, their families, friends and the community. Efforts to prevent youth violence should focus on reducing factors that place youth at risk for carrying out violence and promote factors that protect youth at risk for violence. There are many prevention tools that have been developed over the years for schools to utilize. Such evidence-based programs have been shown to have positive effects in schools. Some of the most effective components to high quality violence prevention programs include strong school climate teams, effective community engagement and implementation of proven prevention strategies such as those found on the CDC resource *Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere* <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/stryve/>

In January 2002, New Jersey passed a law (N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1) designating the third week of October each year as "School Violence Awareness Week." Regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.2) in support of "School Violence Awareness Week" were adopted in August 2005. The Bayonne School District strives to prevent youth violence everywhere in the City of Bayonne. Your child(s) school will be holding specific activities during our "School Violence Awareness Week" in October. We also work throughout the school year on various topics to support all of our students and prevent violence.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent