



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 11, 2022  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools  
Route To: Administrators, School Counselors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Data-based Decision Team Members, I&RS Team Members, NJTSS Team Members, Care Coordinators  
From: Kathleen Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

### **New Jersey Department of Education Mental Health Webinar Series**

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health challenges were the leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people. The United States Surgeon General's [2021 advisory report on Protecting Youth Mental Health](#) noted that one in five children ages 3 to 17 in the US reported a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder. Schools have a unique opportunity to identify the early signs of behavioral, mental, and developmental disorders, provide social-emotional support services, and foster skills necessary to address challenges during the adolescent years.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes the ongoing mental health supports needed for our youth and is increasing its efforts to assist school districts to implement a comprehensive school-based mental health system (CSMHS). To build upon the information and resources in the [New Jersey Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Resource Guide](#), the Office of Student Support Services will host a series of webinars and associated office hours to aid districts in developing and implementing a CSMHS. A list of upcoming webinar topics can be found in the below chart.

Session	Webinars
1	Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health (CSMHS) & the New Jersey Mental Health Resource Guide
2	Developing a CSMHS within a Prevention and Promotion Based Framework
3	Establishing Universal Supports
4	Resource Mapping, Needs Assessments, & Screener Selection
5	Establishing Tier 2 & 3 Interventions
6	Establishing Self-Care for Educators within Your District

The first webinar session will be held from **2:30-3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24**. Please visit the NJDOE [Calendar of Events](#) to register for this session and for the other webinars, which will be posted throughout the coming months.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact the Office of Student Support Services at [safesupportiveschools@doe.nj.gov](mailto:safesupportiveschools@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group