



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Weekly Broadcast – April 12, 2019**

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Dear Colleagues,

Recently, the education community was shaken by news of a high-school student who secretly gave birth to a baby, but the story culminated with a tragic ending. Today, I want to reinforce the absolute necessity that we ensure our students are aware of New Jersey's Safe Haven Law.

Below is a link to a memo from Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner of the state Department of Children and Families, announcing the launch of a new [Safe Haven campaign](#). The Safe Haven Law allows anyone to anonymously surrender an infant to a designated Safe Haven site, such as hospital emergency rooms, police stations, fire departments, and ambulance and rescue squads open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The success of this effort depends on effective communications with students. [State law](#) requires schools to have posters, pamphlets and information available to students in grades 7 to 12. Of course, that is just the minimum requirement; nothing precludes schools from taking a more proactive approach to letting students know about this law.

To date, 71 newborns have been rescued through the Safe Haven law. Moving forward, I hope we never read another story like the tragedy that occurred this month – and we instead only hear about the infants that have been saved because of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Lamont O. Repollet  
Commissioner of Education

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### **In this issue**

- [Broadcast Memos](#)
- [Resources and Opportunities](#)
- [Current Grant Opportunities](#)
- [In the News](#)