



Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

Union County Educational Services Commission

45 Cardinal Drive
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
Phone: 908-233-9317
Fax: 908-233-7432
Transportation Fax: 908-518-1669

Carrie M. Dattilo

Superintendent

cdattilo@ucesc.org

Eric Larson

Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

elarson@ucesc.org

Lorraine Vitiello

Transportation Coordinator

lvitiello@ucesc.org

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I hope this letter finds all of you well and enjoying the fall weather. We have had an exciting beginning of the year in all of our schools and programs. I encourage you to check out our monthly newsletters on our website. While on our website, please look at the preliminary results of the UCESC Feedback Survey. Thanks to everyone who participated, we are working as school and district teams to create goals that will ensure we are meeting the needs of every student.

Beginning this school year, all New Jersey public schools are required to establish behavioral threat assessment teams to provide teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students with behaviors of concern, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk. All district and school administrators have been trained in the threat assessment process, and each UCESC school has established a team to ensure this process is followed when necessary. These teams are also prioritizing the identification and administration of services for students needing additional academic or social-emotional support.

As a part of this initiative to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, we are pleased to announce that our school will be using the STOPit anonymous reporting system to better identify, address, deter, and mitigate student concerns, including but not limited to bullying, acts of violence, mental health concerns, and substance use. Students, staff, and families will have access to the STOPit mobile app.

This program provides staff with tools to recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors, gather and report information, and allow admins to assess, manage, and resolve incidents. This program will also assist in our ongoing efforts to meet and address the various needs of our students. For more information on this program, I encourage you to watch the [StopIt Parent Video](#).

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through the STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message. Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the

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[Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

Students have the power to help end harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or otherwise needing assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder school communities online and offline.

Please note that we will be launching STOPit on October 16, 2023. Prior to that date, parents and students will be able to download the STOPit app from the app store on their smartphone or tablet at no charge.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your student's school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to [Student Training Video](#). A link to access the StopIt app can be found on our district website (www.ucesc.org) and in the app store.

Together, we can ensure everyone in our community receives the individualized programs and services needed to thrive.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Dattilo
Superintendent of Schools