



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 6, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Supervisors
Route To: Business Administrators, Principals, Directors of Buildings and Grounds, School Safety Specialists, School Administration, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Faculty
From: Jeff Gale, Director
Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning

National Preparedness Month

The Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning (OSPEP) continues to collaborate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the safety, security, and resilience of our school communities. As we begin September, it is essential to highlight the significance of **National Preparedness Month**. National Preparedness Month occurs each September to raise awareness and strengthen resilience against the effects of disasters and emergencies. This year's theme is: ***"A Lasting Legacy – The Life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family."***

Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, preparedness can make the difference in keeping our schools and communities safe. By actively participating in National Preparedness Month, staff and students can effectively contribute to safeguarding their family, friends, and community members while promoting a culture of preparedness, with these simple steps:

- **Make A Plan**: Families may not be together if a disaster strikes, it is important to create plans that outline how families will contact each other during an emergency.
- **Build a Kit**: Assemble emergency kits containing essential supplies like water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Ensure these kits are easily accessible and periodically updated.
- **Ready Kids**: Engage students in age-appropriate preparedness activities. Utilize FEMA's "Ready Kids" resources to teach children about emergency planning.
- **Pet Preparedness**: Pets are important members of families too; include any pets when planning.

To access this year's National Preparedness Month announcements and resources, please visit FEMA's [Ready Campaign website](#).

Questions can be directed to OSPEP at school.security@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3574.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group