

October 13, 2023

Parents/Guardians:

Please note, we received the following message from the New York State Education Department concerning the impact on our students of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis:

This past Wednesday, the Board of Regents and Commissioner Rosa convened education leaders from across the State to discuss the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis on our school system. Given the diverse tapestry of children in New York, our schools play a critical role in providing opportunities for open discussion and helping students process their emotions and gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of this sensitive topic.

To assist with these conversations, the State Education Department has prepared a website resource that consolidates and highlights helpful information for educators, caregivers, school leaders, and education stakeholders to use as they navigate through, and engage in, conversations about the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. This includes: (a) helpful ways for educators to discuss the conflict in school classrooms, (b) conversation starters and digital resources for parents and caregivers, as well as (c) school safety, and (d) cybersecurity resources for school leaders. This website will be a living resource that we will update in the days and weeks to come.

Website Link: <https://www.nysed.gov/israeli-palestinian-crisis-resources-educators-caregivers-and-school-leaders>

We encourage parents/guardians to reach out to your child's guidance counselor to help students cope with any stress or trauma they may be experiencing and how to handle the impacts of this war from afar. These attacks have brought about a wave of fear, uncertainty, and distress within our communities, and it is paramount that our schools remain safe and supportive places for students.

As always, thank you for your tireless work in leading our school communities through this difficult time.