THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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To: District Superintendents of BOCES
Superintendents of Public School Districts
Principals of Public Schools

From: Gemma C. Rinefierd, Ed.D.

Subject: Water Safety Information

A new law, Education Law section 926 becomes effective July 1, 2026, and requires school districts to provide information on water safety to parents/guardians.

Specifically, the law requires school districts to provide information at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year to parents/guardians, either electronically or via written materials, regarding the following:

- drowning prevention,
- water safety, and
- safe and healthy swimming.

After the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, the information is to be provided to parents/guardian of any new enrollees, or to the student if aged 18 or older.

Additionally, the school district must provide this information on the district's website in a visible location. Translation of the information into one of the 12 most commonly non-English languages in the state must be provided if requested by the parent/guardian.

The NYS Department of Health has created a tip card for this purpose: Safe Swimming Tips for Everyone.

Schools may also order copies of the Safe Swimming tip card (publication number 3112) at the Order Free Center for Environmental Health Publications.