



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 9, 2018  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads,  
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School  
Administrators  
Route To: Principals, School Nurses, Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, Coaches  
From: Peggy McDonald, Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services  
Deadline: March 2, 2018

### **Opioid Use and Misuse Fact Sheet and Sign-Off Sheet**

In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10*, public school districts, approved private schools for students with disabilities, and nonpublic schools participating in an interscholastic sports program must distribute the [Opioid Use and Misuse Educational Fact Sheet](#) to all student-athletes and cheerleaders. In addition, schools and districts must obtain a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the fact sheet from each student-athlete and cheerleader, and for students under age 18, the parent or guardian must also sign.

In accordance with the law, the fact sheet must be distributed and a sign-off sheet completed and collected for each student-athlete or cheerleader prior to the first official practice session of the spring 2018 athletic season (March 2, as designated by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association), and annually thereafter prior to the student's first official practice of the school year. For the convenience of school officials, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has designed a [template sign-off form](#). This sign-off form cannot be combined with any other sign-off sheets that students or parents are required to complete.

These forms, as well as a text-only version of the Opioid Use and Misuse Fact Sheet, can be found on the NJDOE's [Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use webpage](#).

#### **Background**

In July 2017, Governor Christie signed into law *P.L. 2017, c.167*, which requires the NJDOE to develop a fact sheet containing information on the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a health care provider prescribes a student-athlete or cheerleader an opioid for a sports-related injury. The law also requires student-athletes (and their parents, if the student is under age 18) to annually sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the fact sheet. The fact sheet was developed by the NJDOE in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, and Karan Chauhan, a student at Parsippany Hills High School who serves as the student representative to the State Board of Education.

#### **Contact Information**

Questions may be directed to [healthyschools@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:healthyschools@doe.state.nj.us).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner  
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Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
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