



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 10, 2018
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads,
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Building Administrators
From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner

A Commitment to Eradicate Bias and Hate from Interscholastic Athletics

On June 18, 2018, the Attorney General of New Jersey, through the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights (DCR), and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), sent joint [correspondence](#) to all building principals urging them to renew their efforts to keep bias and hate out of interscholastic athletics. This joint correspondence also reaffirmed the commitment of both the DCR and NJSIAA to work collaboratively to combat bias and hate in interscholastic athletics as initially pledged in its Memorandum of Understanding from 2013.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is fully committed, in collaboration with the DCR and the NJSIAA, to ensure that all students who participate in athletics and extracurricular activities can do so in the most positive, supportive, and healthy environment possible. Like the DCR and NJSIAA, the NJDOE firmly believes that all participants in interscholastic athletics, including the students, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators, should always uphold the tenets of acceptance, tolerance, civility, and good sportsmanship. Bias and hate can have a profoundly harmful and destructive impact on all participants in interscholastic athletics, and do nothing but detract from what is intended to be a meaningful and positive experience for all involved.

As the Commissioner of Education, I strongly encourage all administrators, coaches, staff members, and student athletes to be well-informed of the NJSIAA's [Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations](#), and Article IX (Sportsmanship) of the Bylaws in particular. Administrators, coaches, and staff members should also be educated on the obligations of the host school, and of the officials, to ensure that everyone is doing their part to eliminate bias and hate from interscholastic athletics.

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