

## Safer Schools For a Better Tomorrow

The goal is to increase district level preparedness to improve continuity of learning for PreK-12 schools and minimize impact of school-related disruptions and emergencies.

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# SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS NOW

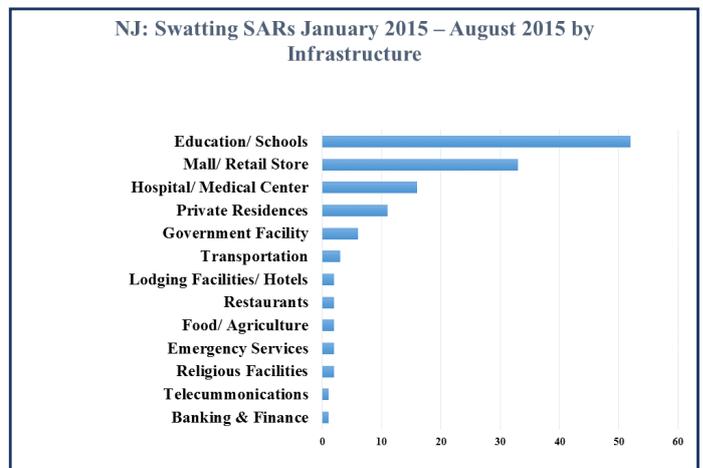
*School Preparedness Now is a newsletter that provides New Jersey school districts with relevant, up-to-date, and practical information on safety & preparedness for schools and local communities. For more information email [ssbt@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:ssbt@doe.state.nj.us).*

## NJ in the News: Zero Tolerance on Swatting

Nationwide, individuals, businesses, and institutions are being impacted by a phenomenon known as swatting. Swatting is the “act of falsely reporting an ongoing emergency or threat of violence in order to prompt an immediate tactical law enforcement response.” New Jersey experienced an uptick in swatting incidents in 2015. According to the New Jersey Suspicious Activity Reporting System (NJSARS), 133 swatting incidents have been reported as of the end of August. This data, overseen by the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP), indicates that swatting

incidents impact educational communities at a significantly higher rate than any other critical infrastructure sector (see graph). The economic, social, and emotional impact has been so imposing in New Jersey that on June

11, 2015, the NJ Assembly unanimously approved a bill that upgrades “false public alarm” from a third degree crime to a second degree crime, punishable by 5-10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$150,000.



## Hot Topics: SWAT or Not?

Many of our schools in New Jersey have been impacted by swatting this year. The effect of even one swatting incident on the community is emotionally, financially, and physically vast. The experience is disruptive for schools, extremely frightening for students, and nerve-wracking for parents. However,



*Princeton Police Chief Nick Sutter and Mayor Liz Lempert listen at a community meeting to address the "swatting" issue on June 17, 2015. (Photo by Philip Sean Curran/centralersey.com)*

these incidents can be shifted into learning opportunities for schools and the communities they serve. For instance, Princeton Public Schools experienced six swatting incidents from March to May 2015. Princeton Police Chief Nick Sutter noted that while none of the swatting incidents nationwide have indicated actual intentions of carrying out threats, law enforcement must treat each one as a real threat. Each incident in Princeton has led to more discussions regarding how communities across the state and nation are responding and how schools and law enforcement can better protect students and staff against this evasive threat. Training for staff is important, particularly those in the main office that may be receiving the call. You can find a list of potential indicators from OHSP at [www.njohsp.gov/swatting](http://www.njohsp.gov/swatting).

For more information contact the OHSP Analysis Bureau at [analysis@njohsp.gov](mailto:analysis@njohsp.gov).

# Promising Practices: Managing Your School's Digital Footprint

Teachers have become more innovative with the classroom tools they employ to help students learn. They are accessing and introducing new apps and software into their curriculum

in an effort to diversify instruction techniques.

The newly established [New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell \(NJCCIC\)](#) has developed tips and resources for individuals, businesses, and schools to protect and defend against cyber threats.

The NJCCIC is the State's one-stop shop for cybersecurity information sharing, threat analysis, and incident reporting.

Located at the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC), the NJCCIC brings together analysts and engineers to promote statewide awareness of local cyber threats and widespread adoption of best practices. According to a recent NJCCIC [cyber threat analysis](#) focusing on the cyber risk to higher education:

*"New Jersey's institutions are increasingly attractive targets for a range of cyber threat actors due to the breadth and value of data available on their largely accessible and often vulnerable networks."*

While this speaks largely to colleges and universities, the same analysis still applies to high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. You might be asking yourself how you can even start creating such a plan that will help mitigate and respond to cyber incidents. What is the best approach to developing a plan that can lower the risk of my school becoming a cyber victim?

To start, begin using best practices, educate staff and students, and continue to collaborate and share information with partners, other schools, and your local law enforcement to make others around you cyber aware.

The NJCCIC continually produces recommendations on how educators, parents, and students can protect themselves from cyber attacks:

- **Map Your Digital Footprint.** Look at all of the social networking sites to which you belong and search for information about yourself.
- **Clean Up Your Digital Footprint.** Remove any photos, content, and links that may be inappropriate or reveal too much information.
- **Be selective.** Know who is authorized to access your information.
- **Privacy Features.** Keep up with frequent changes of privacy features from all of your social networking sites.

For more cybersecurity resources, visit [www.cyber.nj.gov](http://www.cyber.nj.gov). Not only will you find tools for teachers and staff, but you will also find resources that students can use to become more aware of the invisible threat they face everyday. Go to the [RESOURCES](#) tab at [www.cyber.nj.gov](http://www.cyber.nj.gov) for more cybersecurity information you can use at your school.

## SAFE KIDS AND TEENS

The internet has become the most widely used method for keeping in touch with friends, finding homework help, reading the latest news, or simply just passing time. Find the resources kids and teenagers need to learn more about protecting themselves online

### INFO GUIDES

- [netsmartz.org](http://netsmartz.org)
- [safekids.com](http://safekids.com)
- [ikeepsafe.org](http://ikeepsafe.org)
- [onguardonline.gov](http://onguardonline.gov)
- [chatdanger.com](http://chatdanger.com)
- [nsteens.org](http://nsteens.org)
- [safeteens.com](http://safeteens.com)

### INTERACTIVE TRAINING

- [PBS.org](http://PBS.org)
- [FBI.gov](http://FBI.gov)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- [Online Safety Basics](#)
- [CyberBullying](#)
- [Social Web Safety Tips for Teens](#)
- [Protecting Your Online Identity and Reputation](#)
- [Technology: 5 Ways to Reboot Yourself](#)
- [Connect Safely: Smart Socializing Starts Here](#)
- [B4U Copy: Know the Risks](#)
- [That's Not Cool](#)



*"Cybersecurity is a collective responsibility. Do your part to promote the importance of implementing cyber policies and using best practices not only in your school, but in schools around the State."*

*Dr. Chris Rodriguez, Director  
New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP)*

# Significant Incidents: Impact on New Jersey Schools

## June 11, 2015 - NJ Cracks Down on Swatting

With a unanimous vote of 74 to 0, [lawmakers passed a bill](#) stiffening the penalty for persons that commit the public false alarm known as swatting. Assemblyman Paul Moriarty (D-Gloucester), the sponsor of the bill, said, “This isn’t your father’s practical joke. This is high-tech evil that puts people and law enforcement in a dangerous situation.”



*Dr. Chris Rodriguez, Director of OHSP, briefing State officials at the NJCCIC in West Trenton on September 16, 2015.*

## September 17, 2015 - NJ Fights Hidden Threats

New Jersey [introduced a new cybersecurity command center](#) that helps schools and other critical infrastructures monitor, detect, and report cyber threats in real-time. Individuals, governments, and businesses interested in receiving alerts and other information from the NJCCIC can sign up at [www.cyber.nj.gov](http://www.cyber.nj.gov), where they can also report instances of cyber attack.

## Did You Know...in the 2014-2015 school year:

<h1>332</h1> <p>Schools participated in unannounced active shooter drills.</p>	<h1>49</h1> <p>K-12 schools in New Jersey were impacted by a swatting incident.</p>	<h1>356</h1> <p>School Districts participated in the US ED District EOP Assessment Tool.</p>
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## The Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP) conducted:



<h1>22</h1> <p>Presentations/trainings with districts and other interested parties.</p>	<h1>5</h1> <p>Seminars/symposiums for district employees and stakeholders.</p>	<h1>13</h1> <p>Technical assists requested by schools and school districts.</p>
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Academic success cannot be achieved if students do not have a safe learning environment. Research has proven students who are fearful do not learn well. For this reason, New Jersey is one of the most aggressive states when it comes to protecting our nation’s most vulnerable population – **OUR CHILDREN**. We are committed to providing a top-notch education for all children in all communities regardless of zip code.

*Get the tools you need to host a classroom discussion or community meeting about online safety with the **Stop.Think.Connect. Resource Guide** at [www.stcguide.com](http://www.stcguide.com).*



STOP | THINK | CONNECT™

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## Prepárate Ahora: ¿Como Se Dice?

New Jersey recognizes the importance of linguistic and cultural competence in planning and implementing resources, as well as communicating and delivering messages across various mediums. In response to this growing need to better communicate across diverse populations, NJ is targeting key stakeholders that are integral during emergency planning, including state officials, law enforcement, administrators, and education personnel to enhance our state's linguistic competency. In this spirit, this newsletter will feature a Spanish Language Vocabulary Section.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Advertencias – Tips                    | 8. Portabilidad – Portability      |
| 2. Bloquear Teclas - Key-Lock             | 9. Sin Respaldo - Unsecure         |
| 3. Descargar – Download                   | 10. Video - Video                  |
| 4. Fraude – Fraud                         | 11. Virus - Virus                  |
| 5. Huella Digital – Digital Footprint     | 12. Wireless – Wireless            |
| 6. Ingeniería Social – Social Engineering | 13. Ciberseguridad – Cybersecurity |
| 7. Malintencionado - Malicious            |                                    |

*For more translations - [ISACA's International English-Spanish Glossary of Cybersecurity Terms](#)*

## In the Spotlight: Holmdel Township Public Schools

Holmdel Township Public Schools have had first-hand experience exercising their district's School Safety and Security Plan. Between 2014 and 2015, the district was swatted several times. Each instance, a hoax call was made to the school reporting an armed gunman. Over time, school administrators, in collaboration with law enforcement, learned several helpful, mitigation strategies including a continued daily dialogue. Superintendent Barbara Duncan shared that the fundamental

principle that drives the successful handling of each incident, thus far, at Holmdel Schools is the unwavering communication and trust between the school and local police teams. Superintendent Duncan is clear that having a communication plan prior to an incident, including how messages will reach parents, what will be communicated to the media, and who will deliver the message to the public, will minimize false information from being released, which would potentially

increase alarm. Although everyone was shaken by the experiences, one thing is certain in the Holmdel community: parents, students, school administrators, and police are more engaged than ever.



*We salute the Holmdel Township Police Department for their partnership and commitment to protecting staff and the students of the Holmdel Community.*

## Upcoming: News, Events, and More

October 28, 2015

OSPEP will present, “[Keeping Children Safe One School At A Time](#)” at the [NJ School Boards Association Convention](#) in Atlantic City.

### OHSP Kicks Off Cybersecurity School Tour

In our digital lives we may face any number of issues, from preventing or responding to cybercrime, cyberbullying and scams, to teaching children to use the Internet safely, more securely and responsibly. To kick off National Cybersecurity Awareness month, OHSP Director, Dr. Chris Rodriguez, and Director of Cybersecurity, Dave Weinstein, will be visiting schools across the State to discuss the growing and evolving cyber landscape, online safety, and the responsibility of all digital citizens.

To request a tour to your school, contact the OHSP Communications Office at (609) 584-4392 or via email at [communications@njohsp.gov](mailto:communications@njohsp.gov).



*New Jersey's Director of Cybersecurity Dave Weinstein met with Princeton Academy Middle School students to discuss online safety and digital citizenship on October 1, 2015.*

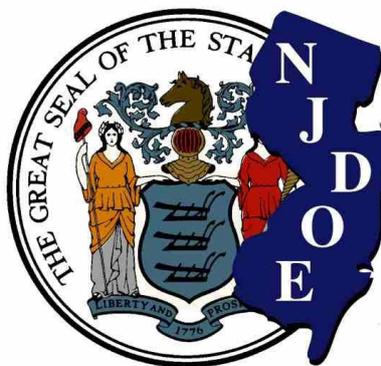
*Remember, the Internet is a shared resource and securing it is our shared responsibility. If each of us does our part—implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating young people, and training employees—together we will make New Jersey safer and more resistant from attacks and more resilient if an attack occurs.*

### Planning for Safer Schools for a Better Tomorrow

There will be six (6) full-day, interactive, regional trainings intended to help update district-wide safety and security plans in accordance with N.J. State Requirements. The training will illustrate how federal guidance is implemented at the state level. Participants will leave the training with action steps to improve the district's plan and provide best practices to train and exercise the district's School Safety and Security Plan. You can register [online](#) or contact Lisa Angelini at (609) 588-2323 for more information.

### K-12 Computer Safety Poster Contest

Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) is conducting a national K-12 Computer Safety Poster Contest to encourage young people to use the Internet. The contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled students. Winning entries of this national contest will be included in the MS-ISAC 2016 Calendar, which is distributed to every state as part of the MS-ISAC Cyber Security Awareness Toolkit. For more information, contact Michael Vance at [mvance@cyber.nj.gov](mailto:mvance@cyber.nj.gov).



*Want to be featured in our next issue? Have a topic you want us to address? Send us comments, promising practices, featured school districts, or an incident you have dealt with to: [ssbt@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:ssbt@doe.state.nj.us).*