



SAFETY NET

NJSIG'S SAFETY NEWSLETTER

DISTRACTED DRIVING Awareness Month

An illustration showing two cartoon characters driving cars. On the left, a woman with pink hair, wearing a green shirt, is driving an orange car and talking on a white phone. On the right, a man with orange hair, wearing a red shirt, is driving a red car and looking at a smartphone. The text 'DISTRACTED DRIVING' is written in large, bold, black letters across the center, with 'Awareness Month' in a smaller font below it.

Distraction-Free Driving: A Safer Road for Everyone

As the weather gets nicer and our schedules become jam-packed with vacations and outdoor activities, it's easy to get sidetracked behind the wheel. However, in the month of April, let's hit pause on distractions and tune into safety. Whether it's putting down the phone, keeping the music at a reasonable volume, or just staying focused on the road ahead, let's all do our part to keep our streets safe for everyone. Remember, it's not just about arriving at our destinations—it's about getting there safely!

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), the three main types of distractions are:

- **Visual distractions** - anything that takes your eyes off the road
- **Manual distractions** - anything that takes your hands off the wheel
- **Cognitive distractions** - anything that takes your mind off of driving

NSC's Distracted Driving Awareness Month Resources



Distracted and Defensive Driving courses are available through NJSIG's partner, **Vector Solutions**. These training classes are available to our members as part of NJSIG membership.

Transportation Library:

- [Distracted Driving](#)
- [Defensive Driving Training](#)



Online Defensive Driving Training

NJSIG has also partnered with **National Safety Council (NSC)** to offer the **Online Defensive Driving Course** to NJSIG members who drive on behalf of the district.

This **online course** is approved by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and is 4 hours in length. Each driver must pass a mandatory test at the end of the course with a score of 80% or better to receive a Defensive Driving Certificate. Also, drivers may qualify for a mandatory **insurance rate reduction** of up to 10% for 3 years (driver should contact their insurance agent for details). You may be allowed to receive up to a two-point reduction from the accumulated points you currently have on your driving record. You may only receive a two-point reduction once every 5 years and only if there are points on your driving record at the time you complete the course.

For assistance with the online defensive driving course, please contact the Safety and Risk Control Department or email riskcontrol@njsig.org.

Issue 10 April 16, 2025

School Law Central


Written by New Jersey school law experts.
Supported by New Jersey school risk managers.
Released for New Jersey school business officials.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
With blaring headlines about shifting federal priorities and the impact on public education, many other critical legal issues facing school districts are flying under the proverbial radar. In this edition of School Law Central, we focus on three key issues where school districts need to understand complex state and federal laws and act proactively to minimize potential litigation. The first article reviews legal obligations related to the provision of school health services and nursing coverage, including legal issues that occur when there is a lack of nursing coverage or students with medical needs participate in field trips. The second article reviews evolving legal obligations related to student restraint and seclusion, including a review of the broad definition of restraint, detailed reporting obligations, and potential areas where litigation may occur. The third article reviews the potential for discrimination or other claims to arise when interactions between school leaders and other school staff go awry, and seeks to raise awareness of the critical role of the school business administrator and other high level school leaders. Finally, we also want to draw your attention to a prior School Law Central article that addresses changing state law in the area of transportation that may not have gotten the attention it deserves. That article - October 2024 Law to Address Bus Driver Shortage May Sound Good, But Caveat Emptor - reviews P.L. 2024, c. 81, which provides some potential flexibility for school districts in addressing a growing shortage of bus drivers, but also creates potential legal exposure that should be carefully considered by school districts.

School Law Central Newsletter:

- Written by NJ school law experts;
- Supported by NJ school risk managers;
- Released for NJ school business officials.

This edition highlights **three key issues** that school districts must understand to navigate complex state and federal laws and take proactive steps to reduce the risk of potential litigation.

**School Nursing Coverage, Student Safety, and Legal Liability**

At a time when the health challenges facing students continue to rise, school districts are increasingly struggling to ensure they have proper nursing coverage both in school and, when necessary, during school field trips and at school-related functions. Two recent broadcast memos (one on March 26, 2025 and the other on December 13, 2023) from the New Jersey Department of Education underscore the importance of this issue, the legal obligations that must be addressed, and potential options available to school districts. In this article we review key aspects of those memos, the underlying legal obligations, the common challenges that school districts face, and key considerations for identifying and addressing those challenges.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Read Issue 10 of the School Law Central Newsletter



Apply Now: NJSIG Safety Grants Available!

The NJSIG Safety Grant Portal opened on April 1 and will remain accessible until June 1, 2025.

This year, \$2,000,000 in Safety Grants will be distributed to support safer schools. Since 2009, NJSIG has awarded over \$52.9 million in grants, helping to keep valuable resources in the classroom where they belong.

Please complete your 2025 Safety Grant Application by visiting the [NJSIG Safety Grant Portal](#) before Sunday, June 1, 2025.

- New user? Click "Request an Account" at the bottom of the sign-in page to get started.
- Have questions? Please contact us at grants@njsig.org.



New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG) is pleased to offer its members complimentary access to the Safety & Compliance library through the Vector Solutions Training System, formerly SafeSchools. This includes, but it is not limited to, all courses that the New Jersey Department of Education requires. Real-time results are recorded and administrative reports are delivered to the members to facilitate easy compliance.

Recent Updates from Vector Solutions:

- **Multilingual Training Availability:** A selection of Safety & Compliance training courses are now available to NJSIG members in Spanish and French **at no additional cost**.
- **Enhanced Assignment Notification Email Templates:** These new templates offer a more user-friendly experience, along with custom branding options.
- **Evaluations+/PD Tracking Enhancements:** Improved usability of Evaluations+ forms and better license tracking management in PD Tracking.
- **Vector Pathways Updates:** The redesigned Vector Pathways work-based learning platform student dashboard simplifies navigation, and we've added new student segment options to improve filtering and reporting.

[Vector Solutions Full Course Library](#)

Upcoming Vector Solutions Webinars

April 22, 2025 - 2:00 PM:

[Surveys vs. Assessments in Vector LMS](#)

April 24, 2025 - 10:00 AM:

[Course Configurations and Creating Custom Courses in Vector LMS](#)

April 29, 2025 - 2:00 PM:

[Running the Right Report in Vector LMS for your Institution](#)



To stay updated on upcoming webinars and to review a previously recorded webinar, please visit [this Knowledge Base article](#).

For questions regarding NJSIG's Value Added Services, please contact: riskcontrol@njsig.org.

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