

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Celebrates 10th Anniversary of New Jersey's School-Based Youth Services Program

Governor Christie Whitman today visited the School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP) at Lakewood High School to recognize the statewide program's 10th anniversary and to promote personal responsibility among teens.

Founded in 1988, New Jersey's School Based Youth Services Program, administered by the state Department of Human Services, brings a host of social services to adolescents at their own schools. Currently, about 25,000 high school students receive services at 30 SBYSP sites throughout the state. The program operates in each of the state's 21 counties.

"Personal responsibility has a lot to do with respect," Gov. Whitman told the 9th and 10th grade students at the high school. "Accepting responsibility for our own lives is the first step in respecting others. The school-based program works so well because it's a way for all of us, adults and young people, to work together - responsibly - to make a difference in the world."

Every SBYSP site offers core services of crisis counseling, individual and family counseling, health and substance-abuse services referral, and employment services. Some sites, including Lakewood High School, also offer violence-prevention programs, on-site child care centers for children of teen parents, and adolescent pregnancy- prevention programs.

"The mission of the School Based Youth Services Program is to help students stay in school, even when they have problems that might create obstacles to getting a diploma," Governor Whitman said. "Working against obstacles is one way of taking responsibility for your lives."

Since 1995, when the Lakewood SBYSP added child care to its adolescent parent program, 15 teen parents who would likely have dropped out of school have graduated. Several more are preparing to graduate. Each year, roughly 70 families of Lakewood High School students benefit from the program's family counseling services.

"We are very proud of the success of this program over the last decade," said Human Services Commissioner Michele K. Guhl, who accompanied the Governor. "It has helped many young people overcome their problems, enabling them to take responsibility for their lives by staying in school and becoming productive citizens."

New Jersey's SBYSP has received national recognition, earning both the American Public Welfare Association's Successful Projects Initiative Award and the Ford Foundation/Harvard University School of Government's Innovations Award. The SBYSP has served as a model for programs in other states.

(A list of New Jersey's School Based Youth Services Programs is attached.)

New Jersey Department of Human Services School Based Youth Services Program Locations by County

Atlantic

Atlantic City High School
Dan Carter (609) 345-8336

Pleasantville High School
Trish Helms (609) 383-6945

Mercer

Trenton High School
Pam Lackey (609) 392-6448

Middlesex

New Brunswick High School
Gail Reynolds (732) 745-5306

<p>Bergen Hackensack High School Frank LeRose (201) 646-0722</p>	<p>South Brunswick High School Leslie Hodes (732) 392-4044 X3224</p>
<p>Burlington Pemberton High School Shaun Stern (609) 894-0170</p>	<p>Monmouth Long Branch High School Pamela Zern-Coviello (732) 728-9670</p>
<p>Camden Camden High School Vocational Annex Sharon Shields (609) 541-0253</p>	<p>Morris Dover High School Linda Seeley (973) 989-0540</p>
<p>Woodrow Wilson High School, Camden Sharon Shields (609) 541-0253</p>	<p>Ocean Lakewood High School Dominick Riggi (732) 363-7272</p>
<p>Cape May Lower Cape May High School, Cape May Caren Maene (609) 884-8641</p>	<p>Pinelands Regional High School, Tuckerton Ginny Galaro (609) 296-3106 x283</p>
<p>Cumberland Bridgeton Middle School Robert Gondolf (609) 451-4440</p>	<p>Passaic Kennedy High School, Paterson Paula Howe (973) 881-3333</p>
<p>Essex Newark Vocational-Technical High School Mary Ellen Mess (973) 972-6353</p>	<p>Passaic High School Susan Proietti (973) 470-5595</p>
<p>Irvington High School Beverly Canady (973) 399-7797</p>	<p>Salem Salem County Vocational-Technical School, Salem Joan Hoolahan (609) 935-7365</p>
<p>Gloucester Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School Frankie Lamborne (609) 468-1445 x 2151</p>	<p>Somerset Somerset County Technical School, Bridgewater Pam Brink (908) 526-8900 x 7286</p>
<p>Clayton High School Wayne Copeland (609) 863-9090</p>	<p>Sussex Sussex County Vocational-Technical School, Sparta Sharon Hosking (973) 383-6700 x 329</p>
<p>Hudson Emerson High School, Union City Nivia Rojas (201) 392-3621</p>	<p>Union Elizabeth High School Stacy Greene (908) 527-5387</p>
<p>Bayonne High School Agnes Gillespie (201) 858-5925</p>	<p>Plainfield High School Louise Yohalem (908) 753-3192</p>
<p>Hunterdon Hunterdon Central High School, Flemington Gary Piscitelli (908) 788-6401</p>	<p>Warren Phillipsburg High School Sue Pappas (908) 213-2596</p>