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101 RIDGE ROAD
LITTLE SILVER, NJ 07739



732-842-8000 EXT. 1-236
THESOURCERBRHS.ORG

AT RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

A School Based Youth Services Program

How to Help Save the Source:

Email Feedback on NJ4S by October 14: NJ4SFeedback@dcf.nj.gov

Sample Email:

I am NOT in support of NJ4S. Denying students who have come to rely on in-person, on demand or scheduled mental health services during the school day **should not be removed** from schools that have such programs. Eliminating evidence based, best practice, highly functioning school based youth service programs is not the answer; especially when these programs are often responsible for executing the mental health/wellness mandates required by the State.

The Source at Red Bank Regional High School is committed to supporting the mental health, well-being, and educational success of all students. They build public and private partnerships to ensure quality services that are effective, culturally appropriate and responsive to the diverse, changing needs of the students and their communities. Red Bank Regional High School (RBRHS) is made up of 3 sending districts, students from XX other districts and forty percent of the population is Spanish speaking. The Source provides comprehensive counseling services, prevention programming, advocacy, academic support, employment services, family engagement, basic need fulfillment, public education/forums and collaborative programming with community partners. Do NOT take SBYSP out of RBRHS. Our children and communities have formed trusted relationships with The Source and utilize their services EVERY DAY.

I encourage you to re-evaluate the implementation of a one size fits all approach to advance access to mental health services to all students and families. Surveying ALL stakeholders at the local level: students, school communities, families and individual towns/cities as to what they need and how services could be implemented would be a place to start. People are not packaged goods, mental health services cannot be doled out like food at a food bank.

Call the Governor's office and make the following statement: 609-292-6000 (Call often)

Do not take The Source, a SBYSP out of Red Bank Regional High School. The NJ4S proposed expansion is an elimination of services that students, families and community members have relied on for over 20 years. A one size fits all, impersonal approach to mental health without stakeholder input will NOT work!

Write the Governor's office at <https://nj.gov/governor/contact/all/> and include the following statement.

Do not take SBYSP out of the schools, especially The Source at Red Bank Regional High School. This proposed expansion is an elimination of services that a school community has relied on and trusts for over 20 years. Hubs and spokes will not provide the necessary mental health services inside our schools! These programs are effective and essential.

**Write your local legislature (Find legislators here <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts>)
Feel free to use the following template and add in your own thoughts on how having the Source has been beneficial to our community.**

Template Letter to Legislature

Dear _____,

I am imploring you to contact Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer to reinstate funding to The SOURCE, a School Based Youth Services Program. I was recently informed that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) effective June 30, 2023 will be eliminating state funding for the SOURCE, the School Based Youth Services Program at Red Bank Regional High School. Funds will be redistributed into what DCF and the Murphy Administration unveiled as a new, First-in-the-Nation Statewide Student Mental Wellness Support Infrastructure Proposal known as “NJ4S” that will support all NJ students and families.

NJ4S takes a “Hub and Spoke” approach to mental health services. Hubs would be located in a vicinage. There are 15 vicinages throughout the state. The Hub will provide the expertise, staffing and service links to students and their families while the “spokes” are sites where services will be delivered. There are 2,493 schools throughout the state and approximately 1.3 million students they will be responsible for servicing.

Eliminating the SOURCE with no regard for the impact this will have on students, families and the greater community at Red Bank Regional High School is wrong. The NJ4S proposed expansion is an elimination of Source services that students, families and community members have relied on for over 20 years. To remove trusted adults from children and the community when they are at their most vulnerable and require help seems unethical.

Since 2000, The SOURCE has been funded through this state grant, matched with funding from Red Bank Regional High School BOE, and ancillary financial support from the Source Foundation. The SOURCE offers comprehensive counseling services, prevention programming, advocacy, academic support, employment services, community forums and more for FREE. (Learn more here: www.thesourcerbrhs.org)

I encourage you to speak out against the implementation of a one size fits all approach to advancing access to mental health services to all students and families without stakeholder input at the local level. People are not packaged goods, mental health services cannot be doled out like food at a food bank.

The SOURCE plays a vital role in our community. Thank you in advance for contacting Commissioner Christine Norbut Beyer to **reinstate funding** to the program.

Sincerely,
Name
Address



@TheSourceRBRHS



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