



Department of
Education

Child Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Education

Instructional Requirements

This guidance outlines the full requirements and offers a non-exhaustive list of options for instructional resources.

Summary

[Chapter 744 of the Public Acts of 2026 \(PC744\)](#), codified at Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1023 requires all public schools to include child trafficking prevention and awareness education as a component of health education for students in all grades kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12). "child trafficking" means a human trafficking offense, as defined in § 39-13-314, in which the victim is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Requirements

Instructional

- Child trafficking prevention and awareness education must be included as a component of health education for students in all grades K-12.
- LEAs and public charters must ensure that instruction and skill-building are age- and grade-appropriate, and aligned with the [health education academic standards](#).
- LEAs and public charter schools may utilize the services of a qualified healthcare professional or social worker to assist in teaching child trafficking prevention and awareness, provided that the qualified healthcare professional or social worker meets the requirements for assisting in teaching family life under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1303.

Reporting

- By August 1, 2026, each local board of education and public charter school governing body must adopt a plan to implement the requirements and be able to provide it to the Department upon the commissioner's request.

Implementation Considerations

LEAs and public charter schools should first work internally to determine the health education curriculum currently being used for instruction, as it may already include developmentally appropriate knowledge and skill development. For younger students, this will look like foundational protective skills (e.g., boundaries, healthy relationships, online safety, body safety, safe adults, situational awareness). For older students, instruction will use more direct language to expound upon these topics as they relate to trafficking. Regardless, an effective and appropriate program will use age-appropriate language and examples, reinforce that exploitation is never the child's fault, and teach empowerment rather than fear.

Developmentally Appropriate Topics

Early Elementary (Grades K-2)

- Identifying trusted adults
- Understanding body autonomy
- Secrets vs. Surprises
- Asking for help
- Recognizing uncomfortable situations
- Basic internet safety

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5)

- Recognizing manipulation and grooming
- Healthy friendships
- Digital citizenship
- Online gaming and social media safety
- Personal boundaries
- Safe help-seeking

Middle Grades (Grades 6-8)

- Human trafficking definitions
- Recruitment tactics
- Healthy vs. unhealthy relationships
- Consent
- Social media exploitation
- Critical thinking and peer influence

High School (Grades 9-12)

- Labor and sex trafficking
- Risk factors and vulnerabilities
- Digital recruitment
- Laws and reporting
- Community resources
- Bystander intervention

Instructional Materials

This is a non-exhaustive list of resources and initiatives utilized by districts to support instruction in child/human trafficking. The following resources and links are for informational purposes only and do not represent official policies, procedures, or guidance of the Tennessee Department of Education (department). Any links to products or services are neither endorsed nor vetted by the department. Additionally, the department bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality, or content of the external sites. Please note that nothing herein constitutes legal advice, and you should consult your district team and legal counsel with any questions.

- [Child Safety Basics – The Nest Foundation](#)
- [Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe \(SUBS\) – Childhelp](#)
- [Influenced – The Exodus Road](#)
- [Just Ask Prevention Curriculum – Safe House Project](#)
- [Kidpower – Kidpower International](#)
- [Love146 Not a Number – Love146](#)
- [MBF Child Safety Matters - Monique Burr Foundation For Children](#)

- [NetSmartzKids – National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)
- [Primary and Secondary Prevention Program – A21](#)
- [PROTECT Prevention Education – 3Strands Global Foundation](#)
- [Rock the Talk - The Mama Bear Effect](#)
- [Second Step – Committee for Children](#)
- [Stay KidSafe! – Center for Child Counseling](#)

Community/Partnerships

- Child Advocacy Centers
- Public health educators through local or regional departments of health
- Qualified healthcare professional or social worker who meets the requirements for assisting in teaching family life under § 49-6-1303
- [AncoraTN](#)
- [Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition](#)