

A photograph of a school hallway with a wide staircase. Several students with backpacks are walking up and down the stairs. The scene is brightly lit by large windows in the background. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Human Trafficking 101: Prevention and Awareness of School-Age Human Trafficking



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Debbie Solcher

Central Texas Regional Administrator

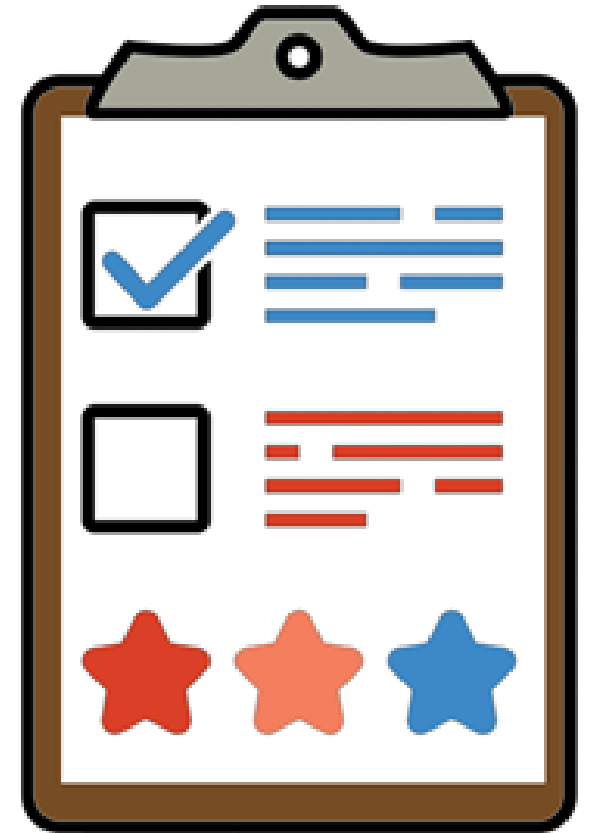
Office of the Governor, Child Sex Trafficking Team

Phone: 512-298-9306

Email: debbie.solcher@gov.texas.gov

Objectives

- ✓ Increase knowledge of updated mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect reporting policy, to include Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness.
- ✓ Receive legislative highlights and updates.
- ✓ Learn about risk factors related to school-aged human trafficking.
- ✓ Receive information on resources.



Objective and Purpose:

Human Trafficking Child Abuse Prevention Webinar Series is brought to you as a part of a collaborative workgroup with Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, Region 14/Title IV Initiative, Region 12, TEA and other stakeholders to support state roll out and implementation of Human Trafficking prevention and awareness in Texas schools.

SAVE THE DATES

Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Webinar Series

Educators are in a unique position to help in the fight against human trafficking. Not only are educators vital in recognizing the warning signs of trafficked students, but also in guiding potential victims to find resources and support. TEA, the Title IV, Part A Statewide School Safety Initiative (ESC Region 14), ESC Region 12, and the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team are launching a series of webinars to support ESCs and LEAs during the 2020-2021 school year.

All Zoom meetings will be held from 10:30-11:30 am and are open to ESCs and LEAs, unless noted below.

Please click link to access each meeting:

ZOOM



See topics and dates below:

Friday, Nov 6	Community Resource/Asset Mapping (ESC only)
Friday, Dec 4	Human Trafficking (HT) 101
Friday, Jan 8	HT Prevention Awareness Month - Internet Safety
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Friday, Mar 5	Topic TBD
Friday, Apr 9	Topic TBD (ESC only)
Friday, June 4	Topic TBD

 preventinghumantrafficking@tea.texas.gov



The Potential Number of Texas Victims is Hard to Believe... and Growing.



- In December 2016, the University of Texas estimated that there were 79,000 children and young adults (18-25) in Texas that had been or were being sex trafficked.

Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Nale, N.L., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., Torres, M.I.M., Cook Heffron, L., Nehme, J. (2016). Human Trafficking by the Numbers: The Initial Benchmark of Prevalence and Economic Impact for Texas. Austin, TX: Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.



The Legal Definition

Child Labor Trafficking, The Legal Definition

Texas Penal Code, Chapter 20

Traffic

Transport

Entice

Recruit

Harbor

Provide

Otherwise
obtain by
any means

By Means of

Force

Fraud

Coercion

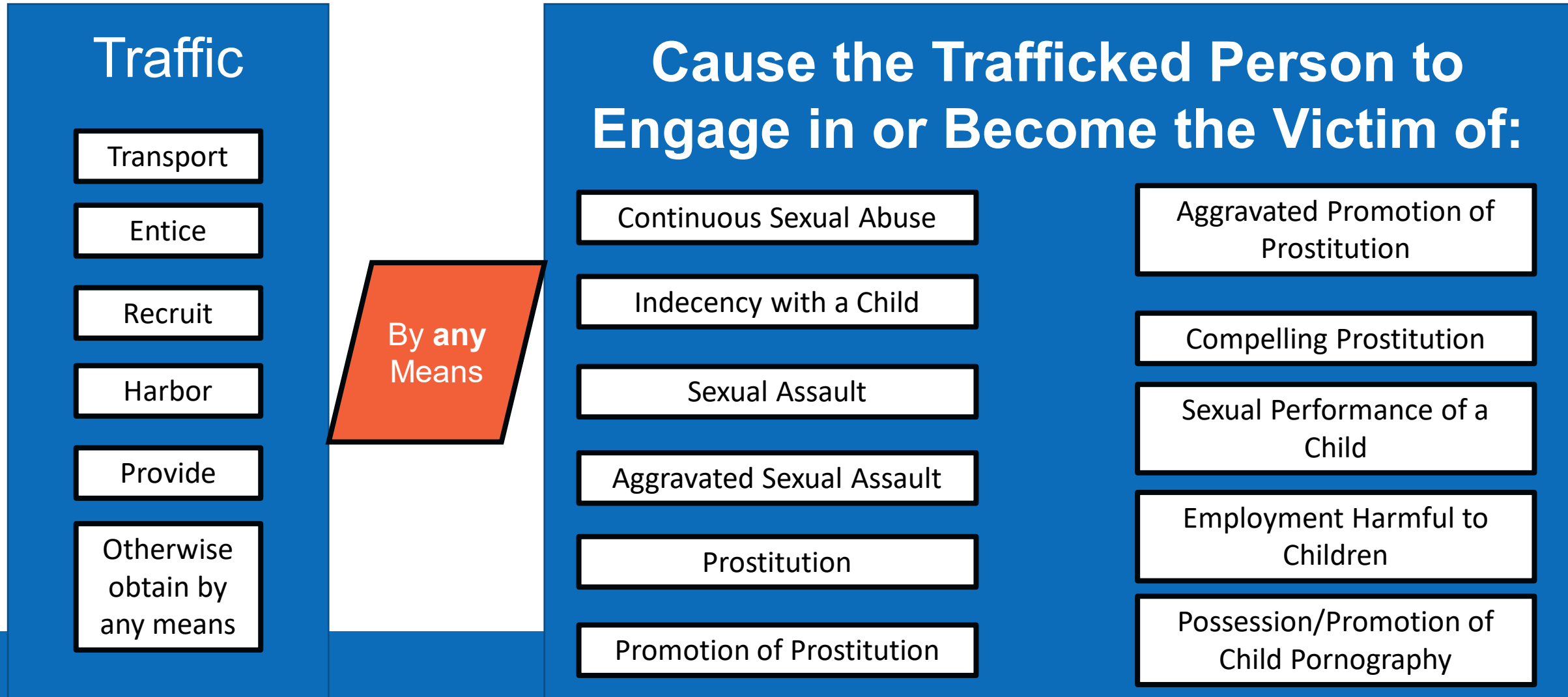
For the Purpose of:

Forced Labor

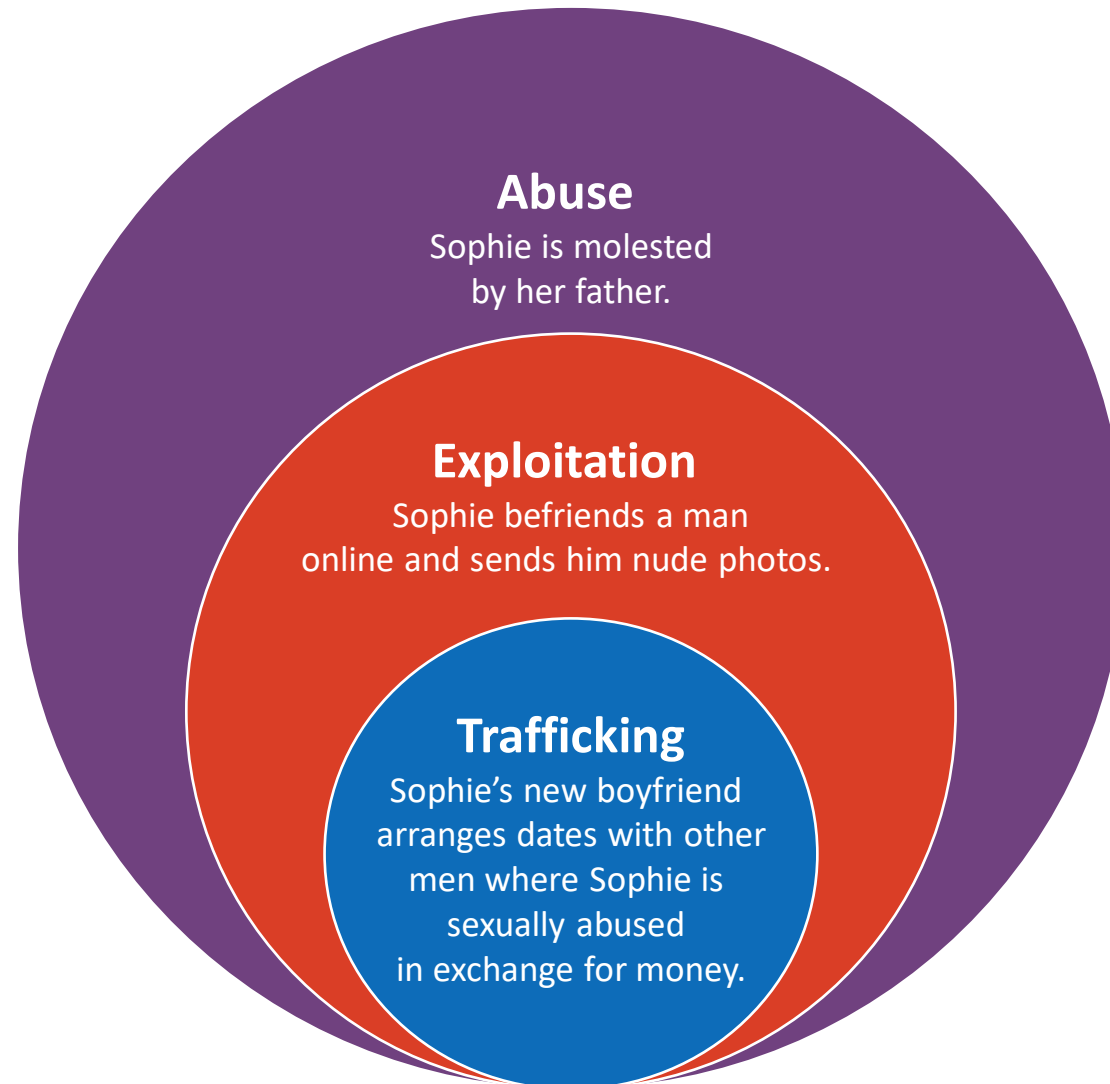
Services

Child Sex Trafficking, The Legal Definition

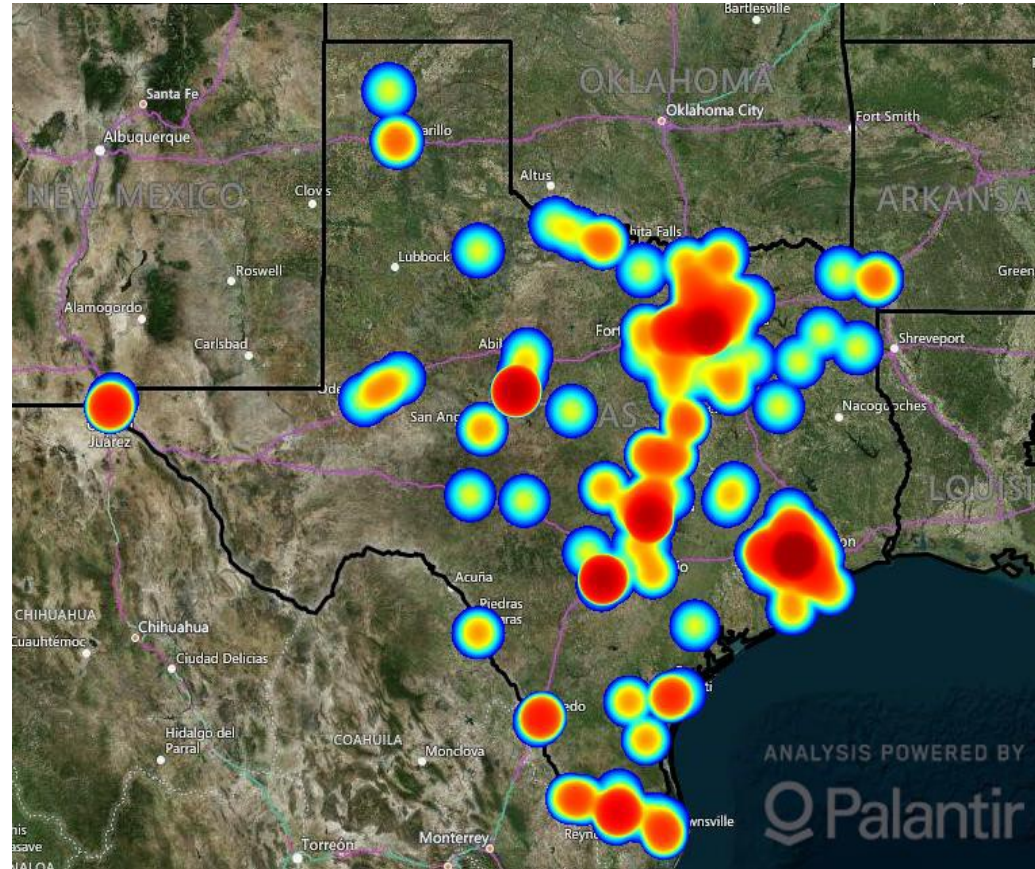
Texas Penal Code, Chapter 20



Abuse, Exploitation, and Trafficking



Human Trafficking of School-Aged Children (Top 5 Cities)



**2017 reports from Texas
totaled 2,459**

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1. Houston | 829 |
| 2. San Antonio | 431 |
| 3. Dallas | 397 |
| 4. Austin | 372 |
| 5. Fort Worth | 91 |

Map depicts hotspots for human trafficking reports to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2017

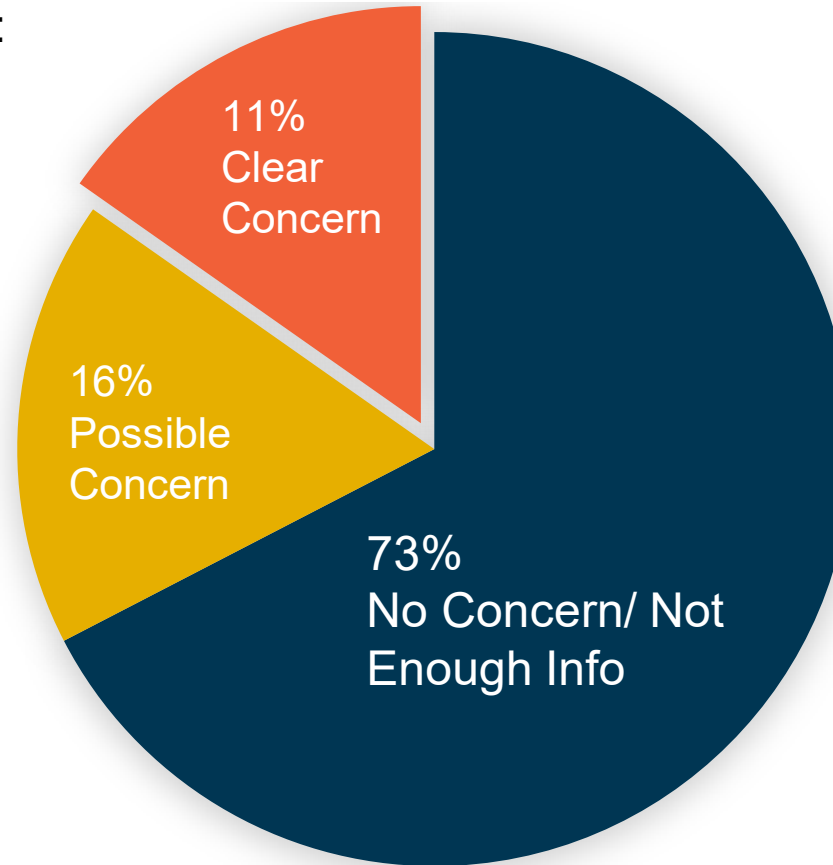
[Source: National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)

CSE-IT Results So Far in Texas

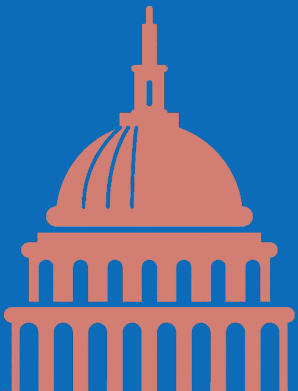
Texas child serving agencies* have conducted 31,761 screenings of youth 10-24 years of age. Most of these are high-risk youth.

From March 2016 to September 2020:

- 23,189 No Concern (73%)
- 5,053 Possible Concern (16%)
- 3,519 Clear Concern (11%)



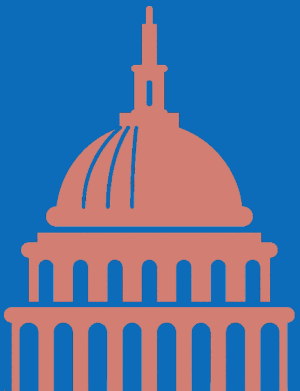
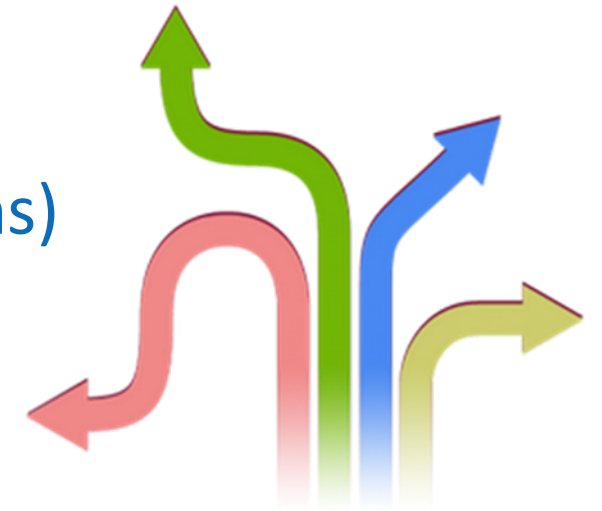
*Screenings conducted by DFPS on children in their care are not included in these numbers.



Exploitation

Pathways to “The Life”

- Familial Exploitation (parents, caregivers, family members)
- Romeo Exploitation (seduction by boyfriend/girlfriend)
- Guerilla Exploitation (violence, threats, force)
- Peer to Peer Recruitment
- Gang-based Recruitment
- Internet Enticement (social media, chat rooms)
- Survival Sex
- Illicit Sexually Oriented Businesses (SOBs)
- Kidnapping (rare in most communities)



A background image showing a group of diverse students in a school hallway. The students are slightly out of focus, with a young man in the foreground wearing a purple t-shirt that has the text 'WE ARE THE' and 'INA' visible. The hallway has grey brick walls and yellow door frames.

Warning Signs and Risk Indicators

Increased Risks & Vulnerabilities of Child Abuse, Neglect, including Human Trafficking During COVID-19

School Closures

- Social and physical isolation/lack of normal peer socialization
- Disruption of routines
- Home is not safe for all students
- Domestic violence in the home

Increased Burdens

- Economic hardship
- Caretaking of siblings or other family members
- Fewer available services and supports
- Alcohol or drug misuse

Additional Challenges

- Quarantines, shut-down, closure of normal activity

Increased Internet Use

- Education
- Entertainment
- Connection

Declines

- Social Skills
- Coping Skills
- Resiliency



Warning Signs



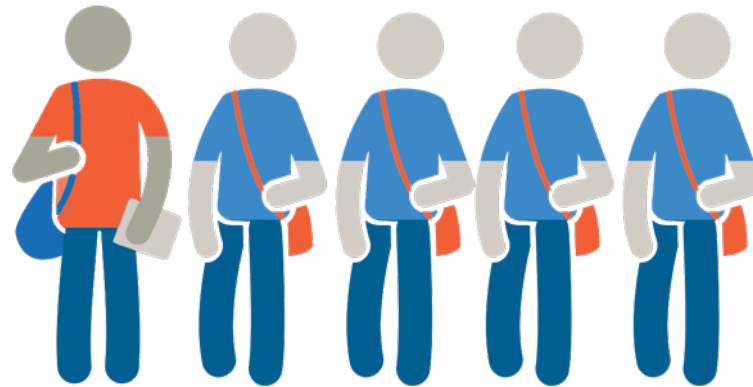
Recognizing potential warning signs of human trafficking is a key step in identifying victims and helping them find the assistance they need.



Not all warning signs will be present in situations. These may vary based on the type of trafficking being perpetrated and individual circumstances of the case.

Warning Signs Continued

- Abrupt changes in friends, behavior, attitude and grades
- Increased absences from school
- Isolated from family, friends, community, and typical interests or hobbies
- Multiple phones or social media accounts
- Clothing that is suggestive or seasonally inappropriate
- Sudden appearance of luxury items (jewelry, clothes, accessories) or money
- Excess amount of cash or gift cards in their possession
- Presence of branding or tattoos
- Controlling caregiver, intimate partner, or authority figure
- Targeted because of sexual promiscuity

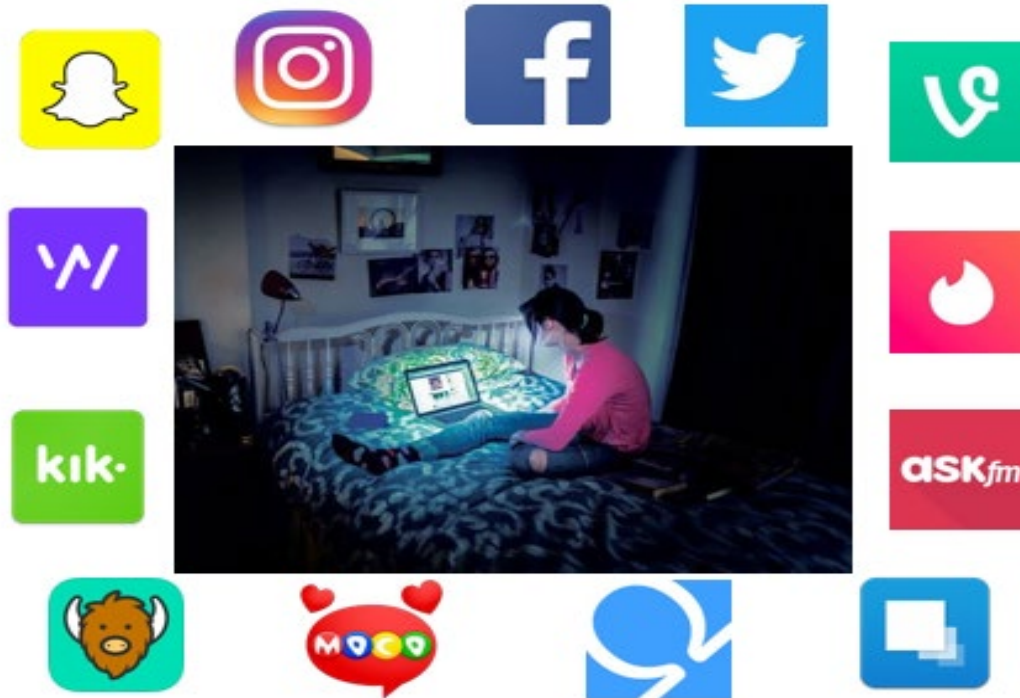


A photograph of a diverse group of students in a school hallway. In the foreground, a young boy with short brown hair, wearing a white and blue striped t-shirt, is smiling warmly at the camera. Behind him, several other students are visible, including a girl wearing a colorful patterned hijab and glasses, who is also smiling. The background shows a typical school hallway with yellow lockers and a blurred group of other students.

Victims Who is at risk?

Who is at risk? Every Child

“Predators spend entire days trolling Facebook, looking for girls who post about fighting their parents or feeling left out of school.”-Trafficking detective



Photographic reenactments by Daniel Bedell
Washingtonian Magazine, June 2013

Victim Vulnerabilities

- **Additional circumstances that make a child vulnerable to trafficking might include the following:**

- Homeless or Runaway
- Technology Access
- Social Media
- LGBTQ
- Juvenile Justice
- Foster Care
- Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Substance Misuse
- Low Socio-Economic Status
- Dating Violence
- Gang Affiliation



Why Do Victims Not Ask for Help?

Children, in particular, may not self-identify as a victim or ask for help due to:

- Limited family/social support
- Normalization of sex for survival/abuse
- Confined or monitored
- False promises of security, love, or a better future
- Juvenile arrest histories - treatment as a criminal
- Feeling that no one will understand
- Trauma bonding between victim and their trafficker
- Fear and distrust
- Threats of violence and reprisal against loved ones



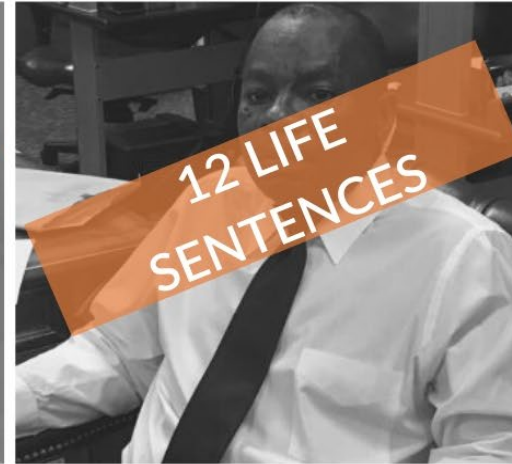
Traffickers

Traffickers, Who are They?



© Unbound

Traffickers, Who Are They? All



How Human Trafficking Impacts Schools

Pearland man, 20, arrested after coercing six Alvin ISD teens into prostitution

By [Shelby Webb](#) Updated 9:34 am CDT, Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Friendswood man accused of using teen madam to lure girls into prostitution ring

By [Harvey Rice](#) Updated 5:48 pm CST, Thursday, November 7, 2013

Police: Irving teen drugged classmate, forced her into prostitution

TEXAS BAND TEACHER GETS 5 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORN

Pair of Killeen ISD teachers arrested in prostitution sting

By [William Axford](#) Updated 5:08 pm CST, Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Identification and Reporting: Why Education Partners are Essential

Traffickers may use your school as a place to recruit victims

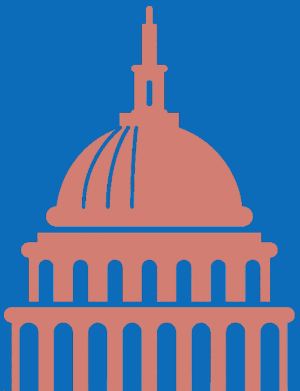
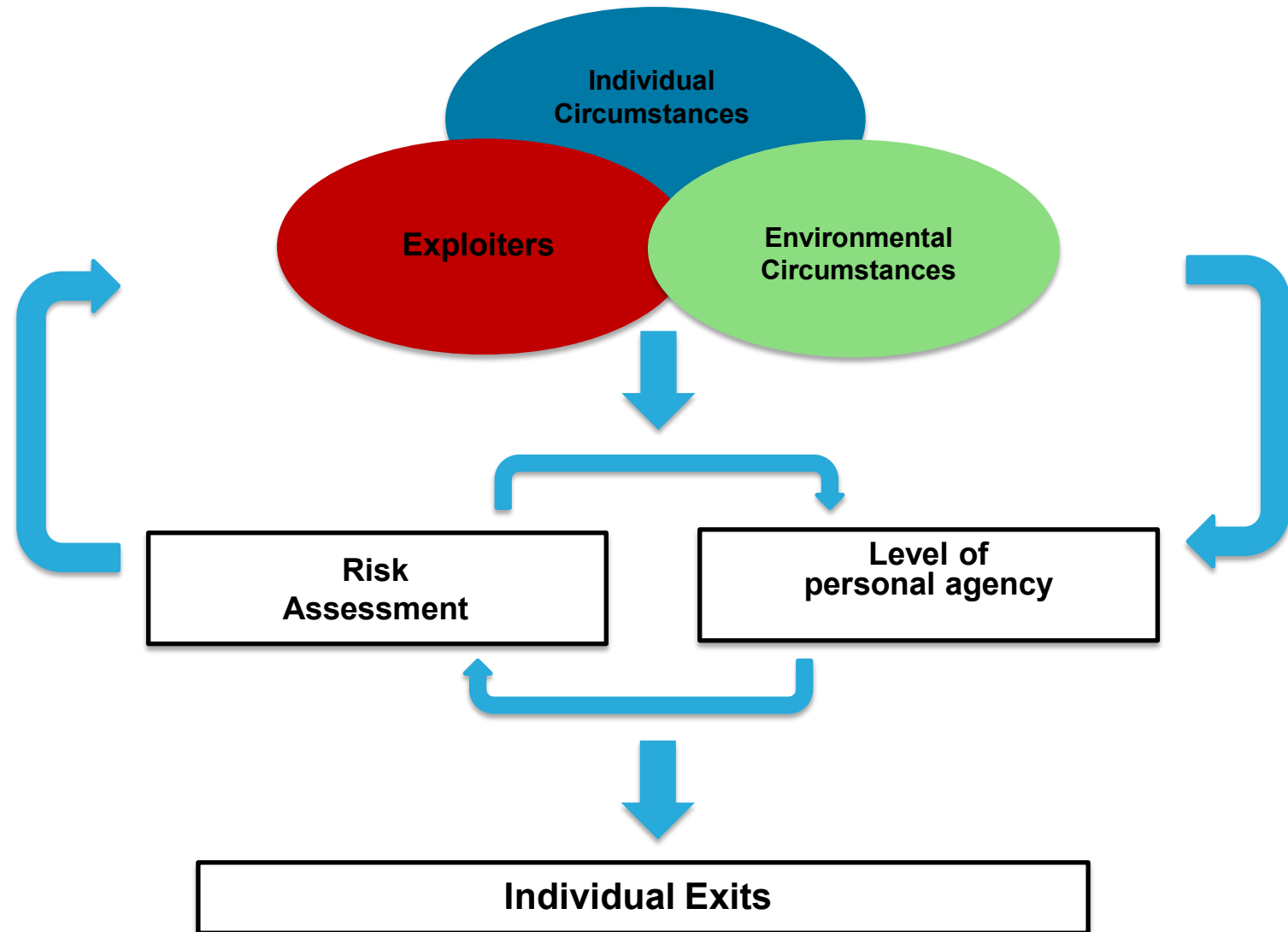
Students may recruit other students.

Adults may recruit on or near a campus.

Traffickers may text or contact students while they are attending school to maintain control.

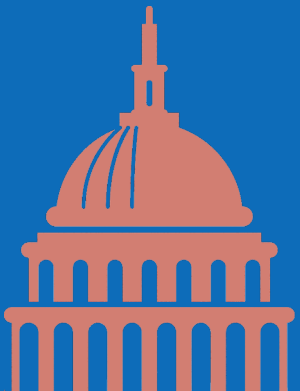
Traffickers may use positions of authority to contact and recruit children.

LEAs have several responsibilities regarding procedures and policies to prevent students from being victims of human trafficking.



LEA Prevention and Awareness Human Trafficking Responsibilities (TAC 61.1051):

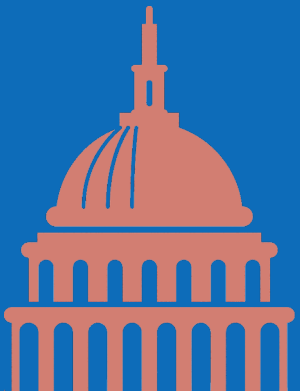
- Develop and clearly articulate district or school-wide policies.
- Develop protocols and procedures for identifying and reporting suspected school-aged victims
- Required training for school staff
- Age-appropriate anti-victimization and prevention programs for students
- Informational handbook provided to students and families



HB 111 - TEC § 38.0041(c)

- Training concerning prevention techniques for, and recognition of, sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, including the sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children with **significant cognitive disabilities**, must be provided to **all new** school district and open-enrollment charter school employees and to **existing** school district and open-enrollment charter school employees not previously trained.

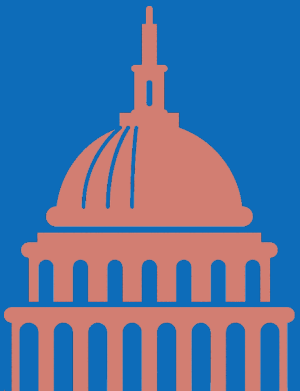
Texas Education Code Effective Date: May 2019



HB 403

Training requirements for members of the board of trustees and superintendents regarding sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.

- TEC § 11.159
The State Board of Education (SBOE)
School Board Members: 1 hour of training (every 2 years)
Effective date: May 1, 2020, Waived: January 31, 2021
- TEC § 21.054
State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)
Superintendents: 2.5 hours of training (every 5 years)
Effective date: August 2020



A young Black student with glasses, wearing a red hoodie, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. The student is smiling and looking towards the camera. On the desk, there is a laptop, a tablet, and some papers. A green bag is hanging from the desk. The background shows a green chalkboard and other classroom items.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Mandated Reporting Requirements



If it is an emergency call 911 or law enforcement immediately



If it is a heightened concern, contact the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400



If it is a hunch or worry (less urgent), make a report online at Texas Abuse Hotline

Additional Reporting

Call the National Human
Trafficking Hotline at
1-888-373-7888

**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**

Provide tips or leads on
suspected child exploitation
crimes to CyberTipline at
www.cybertipline.com or

1-800-843-5678





Resources



Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking Requirements Checklist | SY 2020-2021

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) amended its child abuse prevention, mandatory reporting, and educator training requirements to include human trafficking, in alignment with updates to state law concerning the definition of child abuse and neglect ([TAC § 61.1051. Subchapter EE. Commissioner's Rules on Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect including the Trafficking of a Child](#)). This rule became effective on November 6, 2019.

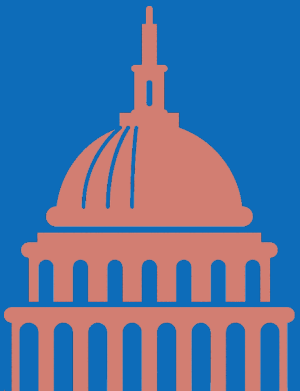
School-aged children are vulnerable to all forms of abuse including human trafficking. Educators are one of the largest professional reporters of child abuse. It is critical for educators to identify and report suspected child abuse, neglect, including trafficking in-person or via remote settings.

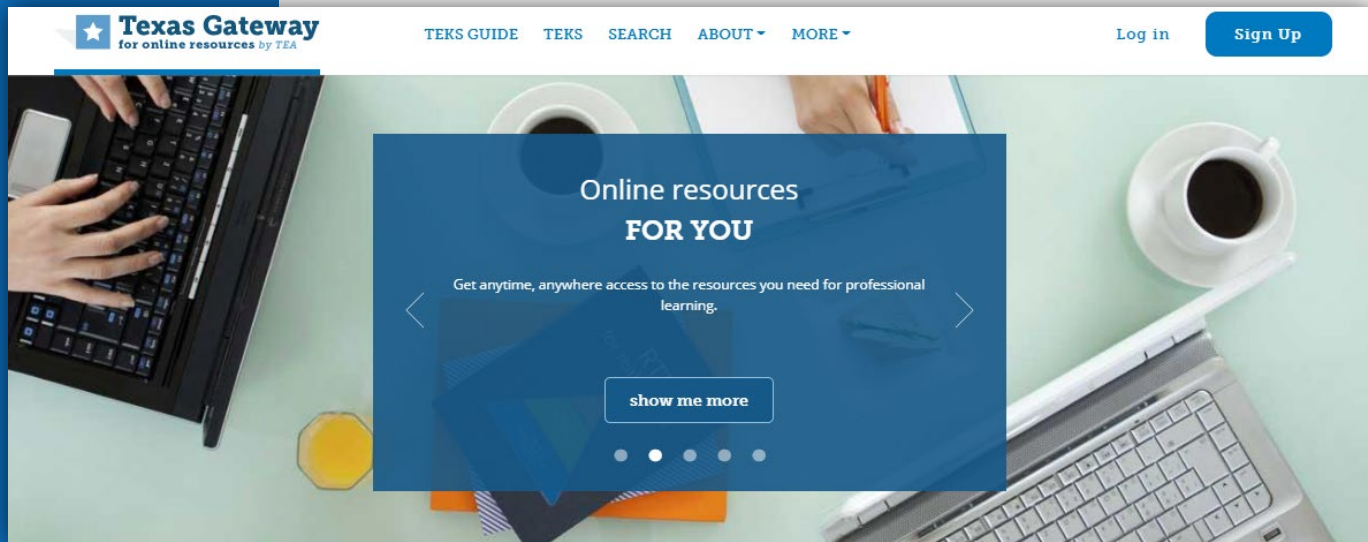
This guide is designed to help the School Board, administrators, educators, and other school personnel to understand the training, reporting, and other policy and protocol requirements required by Texas law.

Required Posting on Texas Campuses

[TEC §38.0042](#) requires all school campuses to post in at least one high-traffic* area, in both English and Spanish, a poster, at student eye-level, with information that includes the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

[PDF Web Link](#)





- Free; no log-in required
- 11 Units; one-hour completion time
- To be used in coordination with existing Child Abuse Prevention mandatory training
- LEAs may use other training and/or collaborate with local community partners to meet updated training requirements

<https://www.texasgateway.org/>

<https://www.texasgateway.org/resource/prevention-and-awareness-human-trafficking-school-aged-children>

TEA and Children's Advocacy Center Child Abuse Prevention Toolkit

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, or Human Trafficking in a Remote Learning Environment Reminders and Tips

Amid the pandemic, reports to the child abuse hotline have dropped significantly. Students are spending more time at home and less time with the teachers, coaches, and other adults who most often report concerns of abuse or neglect. Educators are mandatory reporters and are required to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect, including in a virtual setting. This toolkit provides reminders and tips for staff to remain vigilant and consider

Injuries are frequent, or may also be

Changes in withdrawn, behavior or communication them remot

Reportando el sospecho de abuso, negligencia o tráfico de menores en un entorno de aprendizaje virtual: Recordatorios y Consejos

En medio de la pandemia, los reportes a la línea directa de abuso infantil se han reducido significativamente. Los niños pasan más tiempo en casa y menos tiempo con los maestros, entrenadores y otros adultos que, con mayor frecuencia, denuncian sospechas de abuso o negligencia. Mientras los distritos se preparan para un nuevo año escolar que probablemente incluirá componentes virtuales, es importante que los maestros y el personal estén atentos a los signos y síntomas de abuso. Al enseñar virtualmente, los maestros todavía se consideran informantes obligatorios y tienen el derecho y la responsabilidad de denunciar sospechas de abuso o negligencia infantil sin temor, intimidación o arrepentimiento (Código Familiar de Texas, Sección 261.110).

Posibles Señales de Abuso, Negligencia o Tráfico de Menores

Lesiones y otras señales visibles – Durante el aprendizaje virtual, el maestro observa lesiones inexplicables, frecuentes o la forma de las lesiones pueden indicar que se está abusando de un niño. La falta de cuidado o higiene personal también puede ser causa de preocupación.

Cambios de comportamiento o la conducta – Los niños abusados pueden aparecer asustados, ansiosos, deprimidos, retraídos o más agresivos. Los niños que han sido abusados sexualmente pueden tener comportamientos de alto riesgo o pueden saber más sobre sexo de lo que deberían a su edad.

Rendimiento o absentismo escolar – Preste atención a los estudiantes que están ausentes de los

Toolkit includes:

- Reminders/Tips for Mandatory Reporting in Virtual Setting
- School Employee Guide (English and Spanish)
- School Administrators Guide
- Poster (next slide)
- Banner

- <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/prevention-and-awareness-of-child-abuse-neglect-including-trafficking-of-a-child-toolkit-and-resources>



Child Abuse- No, Go, Tell Student Poster Requirement

TEC § 38.0041; TAC § 61.1051

All campuses are required to:

- Post the Child Abuse hotline on 11x17 poster in **English** and **Spanish**.
- Post in at least one **high-traffic area** (hallway, above a water fountain, gym, locker room, counselor's office, etc.) in both English and Spanish. (**Prefer to place in multiple areas*)
- Posted at student **eye-level**.

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/child-abuse-prevention/child-abuse-prevention-an-overview>



TEA Child Abuse Prevention Webpage

Child Abuse Prevention an Overview

As **mandated reporters**, educators and other school staff must remain informed on the topic of child abuse. School personnel represent the largest professional resource for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Texas. Education leaders can promote awareness of Texas laws and the safety of Texas students by developing effective reporting policies, programs, and employee training.

Texas Education Code (TEC) §38.004 covers child abuse reporting and programs. It specifies that:

- The agency must maintain on its website a list of links to sites that provide information regarding the prevention of child abuse and develop and periodically update a training program on prevention of child abuse that a school district may use for staff development.
- Each school district shall provide child abuse anti-victimization programs in elementary and secondary schools.

TEC §38.0041 requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to:

- Adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children and include that policy in the district improvement plan and any informational handbook provided to students and parents. To see model policies visit [TASB - Freedom from Abuse, Discrimination, and Bullying](#) for more information.
- Participate in a training on prevention techniques and recognition of sexual abuse and other forms of child maltreatment. Each school district and open-enrollment charter school must also maintain records that include the name of each district or charter school staff member who participates in the training. This training must include:

Health, Safety, & Discipline

[Child Abuse Prevention Overview](#)

[Coordinated School Health](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Support and Guidance](#)

[Human Trafficking](#)

[Physical Fitness Assessment Initiative](#)

[Pregnancy Related Services](#)

[Restorative Discipline Practices in Texas](#)

[School Safety](#)



https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Schools/Safe_and_Healthy_Schools/Child_Abuse_Prevention



TEA Human Trafficking Webpage

Human Trafficking of School-aged Children

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, or procurement of a person for labor or services for the purpose of involuntary servitude, slavery, or forced commercial sex acts. While human trafficking is a global problem, it is also a Texas problem. School-aged children are vulnerable to the manipulation and exploitation tactics of traffickers. Unfortunately, law enforcement has confirmed cases of trafficking occurring on school grounds, at school events, and even carried out by classmates.

Traffickers are brutal, and victims are often subjected to serious, life-altering manipulation, and control through the use of threats of violence, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and withholding of basic necessities. Many children do continue to attend school while being trafficked, and as such, are in contact with school personnel on a regular basis. This means that because of your role as an education professional, you may be in a position to identify and report human trafficking, thus facilitating the child's rescue by law enforcement.

A Form of Abuse

Human trafficking is defined as a form of abuse or neglect under [Texas Family Code, Section 261.001](#). All individuals have a duty to immediately report suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), but [Texas Family Code, Section 261.101](#), requires education professionals to do so within 48 hours of suspecting the abuse or neglect. As a school employee, your training on abuse and neglect provide a foundation for you to recognize and report suspected human trafficking.

Health, Safety, & Discipline

[Child Abuse Prevention Overview](#)

[Coordinated School Health](#)

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Contact Information

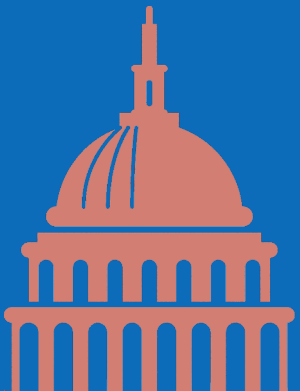
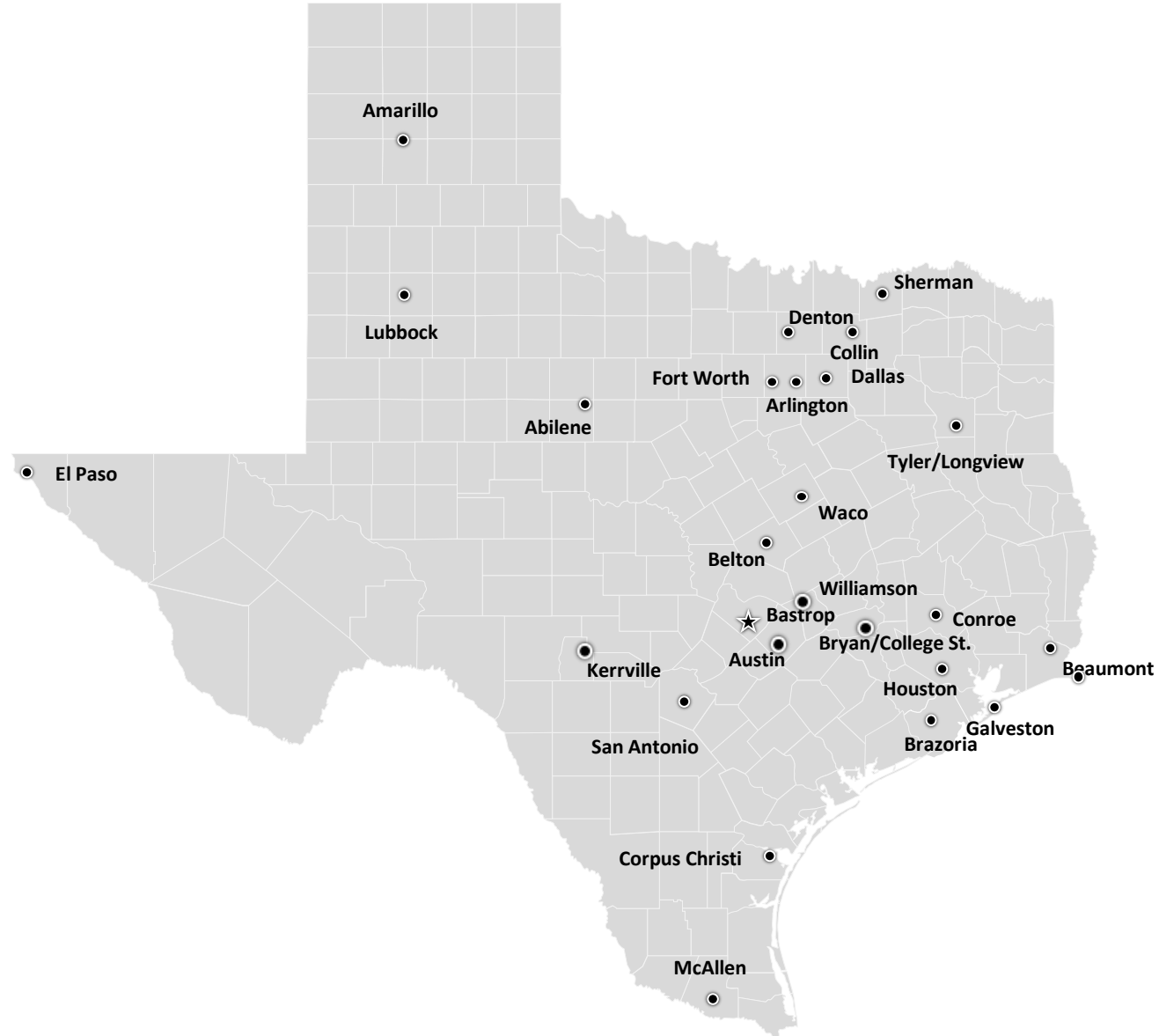
PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.org



<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/other-services/human-trafficking-of-school-aged-children>



Local Anti-Trafficking Task Forces & Coalitions



Partner with Your Local CAC

CACs officially serve 211 of Texas' 254 counties, covering 98% of the state's population.

Counties not officially served by a CAC are often able to receive courtesy services from a nearby center.


To find your local CAC, visit
<https://www.cactx.org/find-a-local-center>

Upcoming Trainings and Events

SAVE THE DATES
Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness
Webinar Series


Educators are in a unique position to help in the fight against human trafficking. Not only are educators vital in recognizing the warning signs of trafficked students, but also in guiding potential victims to find resources and support. TEA, the Title IV, Part A Statewide School Safety Initiative (ESC Region 14), ESC Region 12, and the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team are launching a series of webinars to support ESCs and LEAs during the 2020-2021 school year.




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Friday, Apr 9	Topic TBD (ESC only)
Friday, June 4	Topic TBD

 preventinghumantrafficking@tea.texas.gov



- Prevention and Awareness of Human Trafficking Statewide Webinar Series | [Register via Zoom](#)
 - 1/8 – Cyber and Internet Safety
 - 1/29 – Panel w/survivors
 - [Past training recordings](#) available on HM&AR website.
- [Texas Gateway and Human Trafficking Module](#) - Available now!
- Highly Mobile and At-Risk Webinars
 - Thursday February 4th, 2021 1:00 - 2:30 pm

COVID-19 Guidance for Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking | Awareness and Reporting



Special Populations

Updated July 2 2020

English Learners, Highly Mobile and At-Risk,
Gifted and Talented



Highly Mobile and At-Risk

FAQ and Guidance

- [Guidance for Students Experiencing Homelessness \(PDF\)](#) May 7 2020
- [Guidance for Foster Care Students \(PDF\)](#) April 2 2020
- [Guidance for Military Connected Students \(PDF\)](#) April 2 2020
- [Pregnancy Related Services \(PDF\)](#) April 14 2020
- [Migrant Education Program Guidance \(PDF\)](#) May 7 2020
- [Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking Awareness and Reporting FAQ \(PDF\)](#) May 19 2020

Tools, Resources, and Templates

- [Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth \(TEHCY\) Website](#)
- [Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar](#) April 7 2020
- [TEHCY Sub-grantee COVID-19 Webinar](#) April 24 2020

[Special Populations Page Link](#)

Reflection Time

Take 2 minutes to reflect on the resources we explored.

Now...

1.) Identify one resource you can use next week.

Then...

In the next 72 hours

2.) With whom will you share the resource with?



Thank you for joining today's presentation!

Please take the survey linked at the QR code below to provide feedback!



Please take the survey to provide feedback!



Human Trafficking Program Contact

Kelly Kravitz

Director Highly Mobile and At-Risk Students

Debbie Solcher

Office of the Governor Child Sex-Trafficking Team

TEA Human Trafficking Resources:

[https://tea.texas.gov/About TEA/Other Services/Human Trafficking of School-aged Children/](https://tea.texas.gov/About%20TEA/Other%20Services/Human%20Trafficking%20of%20School-aged%20Children/)

Email: PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.gov

