

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
September 20, 2019

SUBJECT: New Rule 6A-1.094123, Child Trafficking Prevention Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1003.42(2), F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This new rule establishes procedures for school districts to plan and document delivery of required instruction related to child trafficking prevention education for grades K-12 students.

Florida is third in the nation for numbers of reported cases of human trafficking and the average age of trafficked youth is 11 to 13 years old. In 2018, there were 767 human trafficking cases reported in Florida. Of those cases, 149 were minors. The K-12 health education required instruction concepts injury prevention/safety and internet safety currently in statute are the most pertinent to address child trafficking prevention education.

The FDOE Commissioner of Education is a required member of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking administered through the Attorney General's Office. Michelle L. Gaines, Title IV, Part A Director has been serving as the Commissioner's designee since the inception of the council in 2014. The Council is designed to build on existing state and local partnerships working to combat human trafficking. Ms. Gaines has provided extensive statewide trainings from 2014 to present and developed a specific [Human Trafficking webpage](#) to increase school staff awareness.

A child is never too young to learn about safe adults, body safety rules and how to safely use technology. Up to 70% of sex trafficking and exploitation begins with predators connecting with youth online. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one out of eight endangered runaway youth is likely a victim of human trafficking.

A safe learning environment is proven to be imperative for overall student success, and this success is threatened when students face exploitation and violence. Training on risk factors for vulnerable children, the signs and indicators of exploitation and trafficking, and the victim-centered approach should be provided to all staff working with students.

Though there is no standard profile of a child-trafficking victim, several risk factors make certain children more susceptible. Reports indicate that traffickers often target children and youths with a history of sexual abuse, dating violence, low self-esteem and minimal social support.

Possible risk factors associated with child trafficking include the following:

- *lack of personal safety*
- *isolation*
- *emotional distress*
- *homelessness*
- *poverty*
- *family dysfunction*
- *substance abuse*
- *mental illness*
- *learning disabilities*
- *developmental delay*
- *childhood sexual abuse*
- *promotion of sexual exploitation by family members or peers*
- *lack of social support*

Providing instruction for students to increase awareness and skills necessary to prevent child trafficking is a critical need and supports existing state statute.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-1.094123, F.A.C.

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