



Unpacking Commissioner's Rules on Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect, Including Trafficking of a Child

Human Trafficking Statewide Webinar Series

Presenter

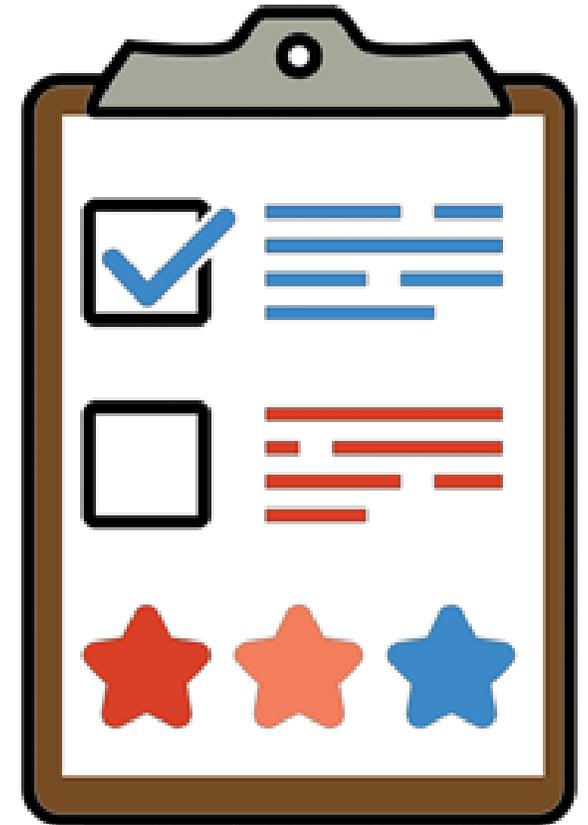
Abby Rodriguez

State Coordinator, Military Connected and At-Risk Students



Objectives

- Increase knowledge of updated mandatory Child Abuse and Neglect reporting policy, to include Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness.
- Learn key components and strategies for implementation.
- Promote student safety and well-being. Learn about resources and tools available to assist Texas schools in fulfilling new requirements.



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
- Quarantines and hospitalizations

New Losses

- Death

Increased Internet Use

- Education
- Entertainment
- Connection

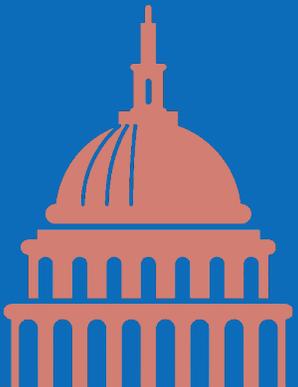
Declines

- Social Skills
- Coping Skills
- Resiliency

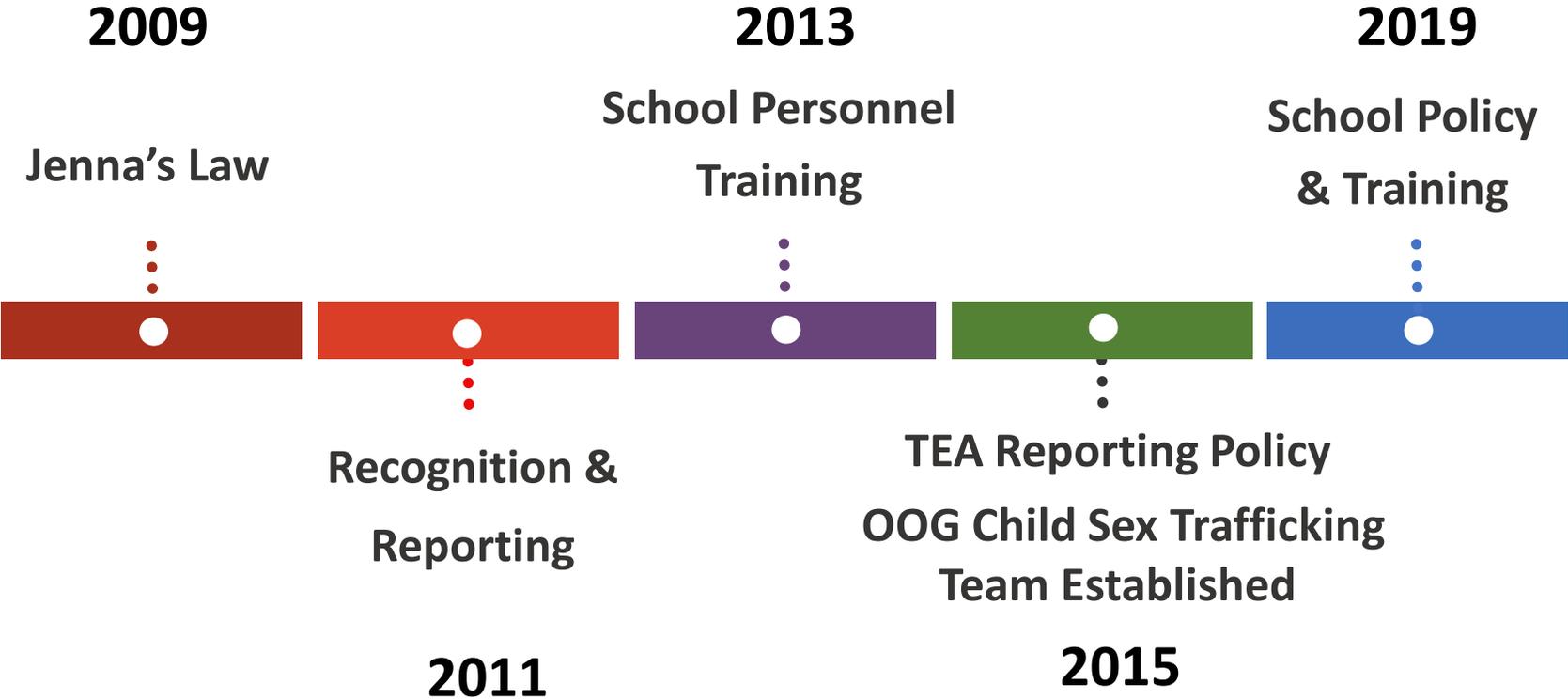


Overview for Texas Schools | Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness

- Training for superintendents and board of trustees
- Training for school employees
- Prevention education for students
- Policies and protocols for responding to abuse and trafficking



Historical Context



Note: Human trafficking has been a form of child abuse under the Texas Family Code since 2011

TEA



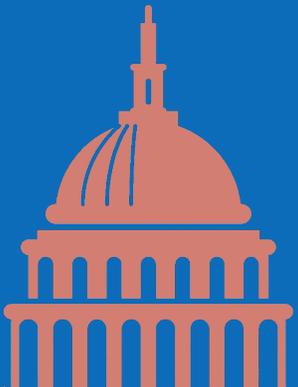
**Superintendents &
School Boards**



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



School Board Trustee Training

The board of trustees of an independent school district is a corporate body that has the exclusive power and duty to oversee the district management and evaluate the performance of its superintendent. All powers and duties not specifically delegated by state law to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or State Board of Education (SBOE) are reserved for the trustees.

Texas Education Code, Chapter 11, Subchapter D defines the powers and duties of an independent school district board of trustees.

The Framework for School Board Development outlines the vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, and unity needed to provide local educational programs and services that will promote excellence in student academic achievement. Initially adopted in January 1996, the framework was revised by the SBOE in July 2012.

Texas Education Code, §11.159, requires the SBOE to provide a course of training for independent school district boards of trustees.

School Board Training Requirements

Continuing education requirements for independent school board trustees are established in Texas Administrative Code §61.1 and Texas Government Code, §§ 551.005, 552.012, and 2054.5191. This table provides a summary of these requirements. Use the links in the *Eligible Provider(s)* column to find a provider.

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/school-boards/school-board-member-training>

School Boards

Lone Star Governance

School Board Member Training

Framework for School Board Development

School Board Training Providers

School Governance

Contact Information

School Governance

Phone: (512) 936-1533

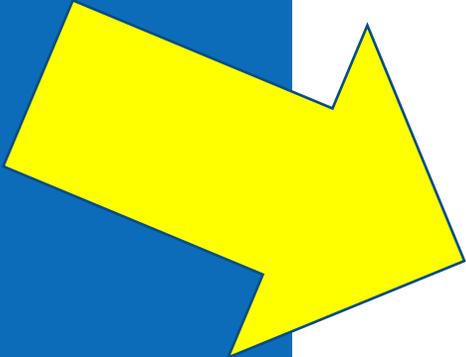
Fax: (512) 475-3665

SchoolGovernance@tea.texas.gov



School Board Training Eligible Providers

Required Continuing Education	First Year in Office	Subsequent Years in Office	Eligible Provider(s)
Local District Orientation	Three hours within the first 120 days in office	N/A	Local District
Orientation to the Texas Education Code	Three hours within the first 120 days in office	N/A	Education Service Centers
Update to the Texas Education Code	Following each legislative session and of sufficient length to address major changes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Providers Authorized Providers LSG Coaches
Team-building (Team-of-eight)	Three hours	Three hours every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Providers Authorized Providers LSG Coaches
Additional Education based on Framework for School Board Development	Ten hours	Five hours every year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Providers Authorized Providers LSG Coaches
Evaluating and Improving Student Outcomes	Three hours within the first 120 days in office	Three hours every two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized Providers LSG Coaches
Sexual Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children	One hour within the first 120 days in office	One hour every two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Providers Authorized Providers LSG Coaches
Open Meetings Act (OMA)	One hour within the first 90 days in office	N/A	Attorney General of Texas



Ensure professional development training includes the following:



Factors indicating a child is at risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment.



Warning signs indicating a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment.



Internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is at risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, **including referral** to a school counselor, a social worker, or another mental health professional.

Ensure professional development training includes the following:



Techniques for reducing a child's risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment.



Information on community organizations that have relevant research-based programs that are able to provide **training or other education** for district and open-enrollment charter school staff, students, and parents.

TEA



**85th & 86th
Legislative
Session
Highlights**



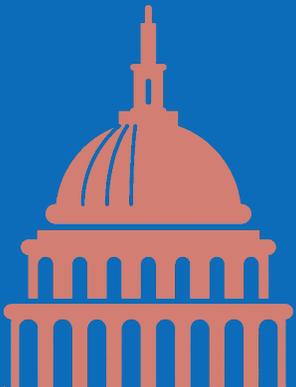
Statutory Update- 85th Texas Legislative Session

19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter EE, Commissioner Rules on Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect including Trafficking of a Child

§ 61.1051

- Incorporate **definitions** to include trafficking of a child
- Requires **additional reporting** under certain circumstances
- Detail what must be included in school district **policy** addressing sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment of children
- Describe the **training requirements** for new employees and employees not previously trained

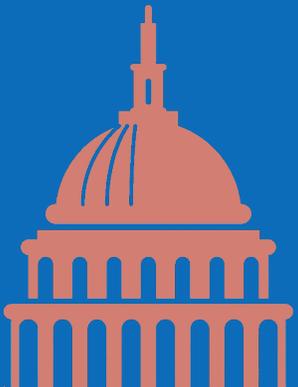
Commissioner Rule Effective Date: November 2019



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



§ 61.1051

The policy must be included in any **informational handbook** provided to students and parents and must address the following:

- **Methods** for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, trafficking, and other forms of maltreatment of children, including prevention techniques and knowledge of warning signs indicating a student may be a victim;
- **Actions** a student who is a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, and other maltreatment should take **to obtain assistance and intervention**; and
- **Available counseling options** for students affected by sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment.

§ 61.1051

- Child abuse **anti-victimization programs** in **elementary** and **secondary** schools consisting of age-appropriate, researched-base prevention designed to promote self protection and prevent sexual abuse and trafficking.



Key Actions for Success



Review the 19 TAC Chapter 61 and begin to **develop** policies, procedures and guidance for staff, students and parents, in alignment with new requirements.



Identify and map both school, community, and **area resources** available to support the implementation of training requirements.



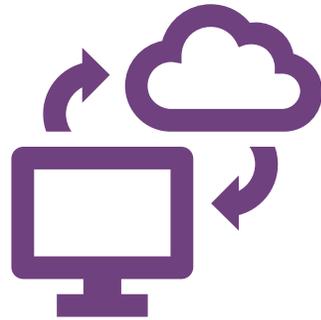
Build community and **agency partnerships** to coordinate professional development trainings and support services for victims identified.

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Anti-Victimization Education



- School districts are required to provide child abuse **anti-victimization** programs in elementary and secondary schools
 - Age-appropriate, research-based prevention designed to **promote self-protection** and **prevent sexual abuse and trafficking**



Note: Education programs for elementary students are not required to incorporate language about trafficking; high quality programs to prevent child abuse and online exploitation are an age-appropriate way to prevent trafficking.

Considerations for Implementation of Prevention Education

- Prevention education may ultimately result in **disclosures of victimization**.
 - ✓ Ensure all staff are properly trained in responding to suspected abuse before implementation of prevention education.
- Program content should be **age-appropriate** for the targeted grade level.
 - ✓ Prevention education programs for elementary students are not required to incorporate language about trafficking.
 - ✓ Prevention education programs for middle and high school students may begin to incorporate language on trafficking and exploitation.



Considerations for Implementation of Prevention Education

- Prevention education programs should **equip students** with:
 - ✓ Knowledge and skills to recognize risk
 - ✓ Avoiding dangerous situations
 - ✓ Seeking help
 - ✓ Prevention of victimization and perpetration
- Who will **implement** on-campus prevention education programs?
 - ✓ Campus counselor
 - ✓ Teachers
 - ✓ Community Partners
- Be knowledgeable about local policies for **parental notification** of curriculum content as well as broader strategies for increasing parental awareness of child abuse, neglect, including Human Trafficking.

Key Actions for Success



Identify **curriculum** to utilize as part of the anti-victimization program. These programs equip students with the knowledge and skills to recognize risks, avoid dangerous situations, seek help, and prevent victimization/perpetration.

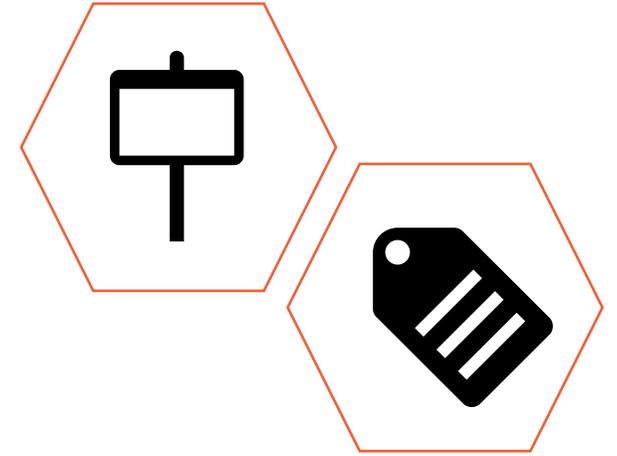


Leverage **existing prevention programming** aimed at other forms of violence with common risk and protective factors (child sexual abuse; sexual assault; dating violence; etc.).



Identify **community resources** that exist for child abuse and trafficking prevention such as children's advocacy centers, trafficking coalitions, and sexual assault and family violence centers.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



- [NetSmartz](#)

Provides parents and/or guardians with critical information about what risks children face online through a variety of free resources available for viewing and downloading at home.

- [NetSmartz Kids](#)

Young children can watch videos and find activities in a safe online environment. Learn how to be safer online in a fun and developmentally-appropriate format.

<https://www.missingkids.org/home>

TEA



**Protocol &
Procedure
Requirements**



Protocol Requirements for Districts

LEAs have several responsibilities regarding procedures and policies in place to prevent school-aged children from being victims of human trafficking.

These responsibilities include:

- Develop and clearly articulate district or school-wide **policies**
- Develop **protocols** for identifying and reporting suspected school-aged victims
- Develop a **procedure** similar to the procedures used in cases of sexual assault or reporting child abuse

Sample Protocol for Mandated Reporting

If the student is in immediate danger contact 911

Step 1

Involve on campus counselor or administrator for possible investigation without asking the student to repeat his or her story beyond the initial outcry. ****Educators must report suspected abuse immediately. This does not require administrative sign-off or approval.****



Step 2

Submit a report to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services online or by contacting 1-800 252-5400.



Step 3

Assess possible campus impacts, such as recruitment, harassment, and involvement of other students and safety issues and report to DFPS or appropriate law enforcement investigation unit.

****[TEC 38.004](#): The policy must provide for cooperation with law enforcement child abuse investigations without the consent of the child's parents if necessary, including investigations by the Department of Family and Protective Services.****

Sample Protocol for Mandated Reporting

Step 4

The staff member, if not a counselor or administrator, can report their concern to an administrator or counselor, if they feel comfortable doing so.



Step 5

If a trafficking survivor's caregiver reaches out for support, work with them to find solutions to academic and behavioral challenges experienced at school.



Step 6

Offer student a referral to appropriate counseling or social services; set up regular contact with student and periodically check on status.



Educator Training Requirements



§ 61.1051

The training must include:

- ✓ **Factors** indicating a child is at risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment;
- ✓ **Warning signs** indicating a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment;
- ✓ **Internal procedures** for seeking assistance for a child who is at risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment, **including referral** to a school counselor, a social worker, or another mental health professional.

*** Annual training for new employees and employees not previously trained ***

§ 61.1051

The training must include:

- **Techniques** for reducing a child's risk for sexual abuse, trafficking, or other maltreatment; and
- **Information** on community organizations that have **relevant research-based programs** that can provide training or other education for school districts or other open-enrollment charter school staff, students, and parents.
- Information on children with **significant cognitive disabilities**.

Key Actions for Success



Incorporate language to include trafficking of a child in current child abuse reporting policies.



Provide training for all district and open-enrollment charter employees through in-person group or online training modules.



Provide a standalone human trafficking training in addition to child abuse recognition and reporting training.



Ensure all training on child abuse and trafficking must now **include information** about children with **significant cognitive disabilities**.

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Resources



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 antivictimization programs in elementary and secondary schools.
- 2) 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

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.

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

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Contact Information

PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.org



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



Special Populations

Updated July 2 2020

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



Highly Mobile and At-Risk

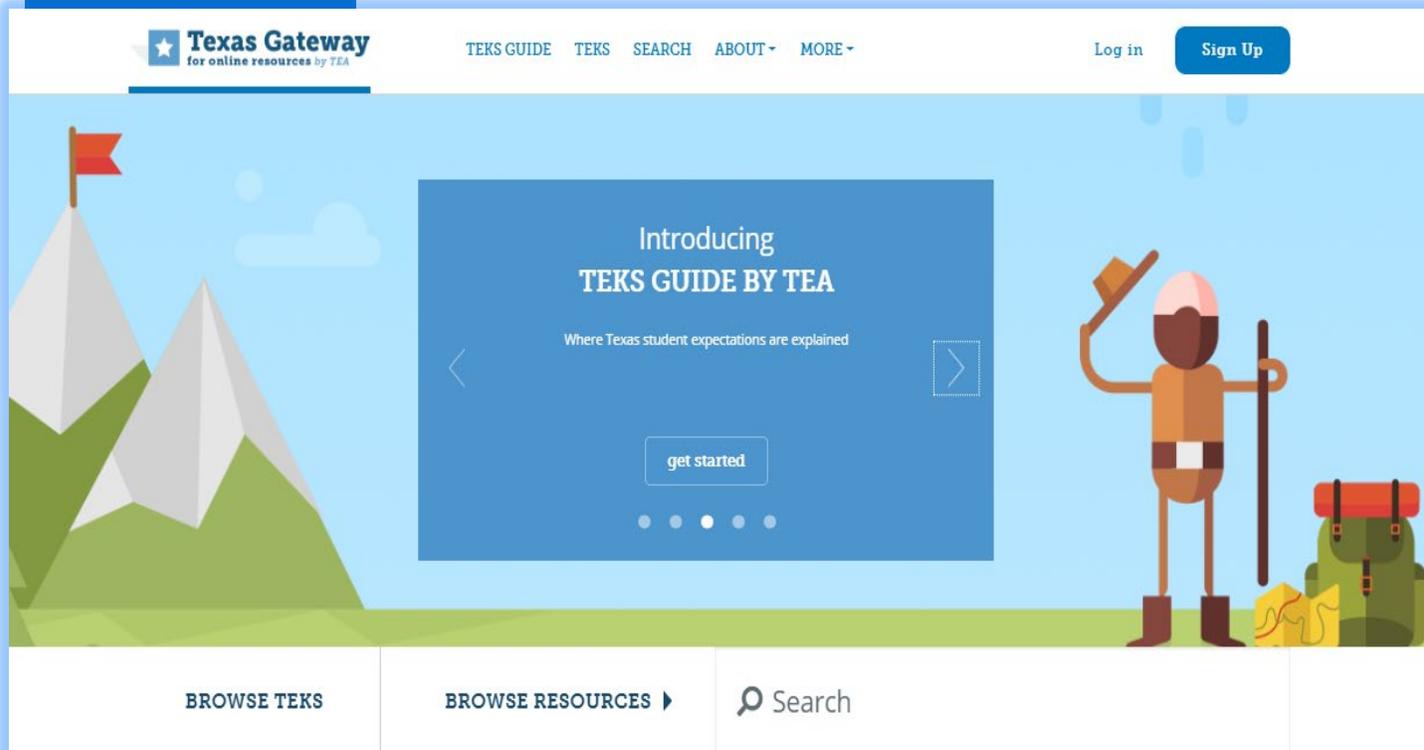
FAQ and Guidance

- [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](#)



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

- 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

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.
- Posted at student **eye-level**.

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



Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team

<https://gov.texas.gov/cstt>

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Child Sex Trafficking Team Regions

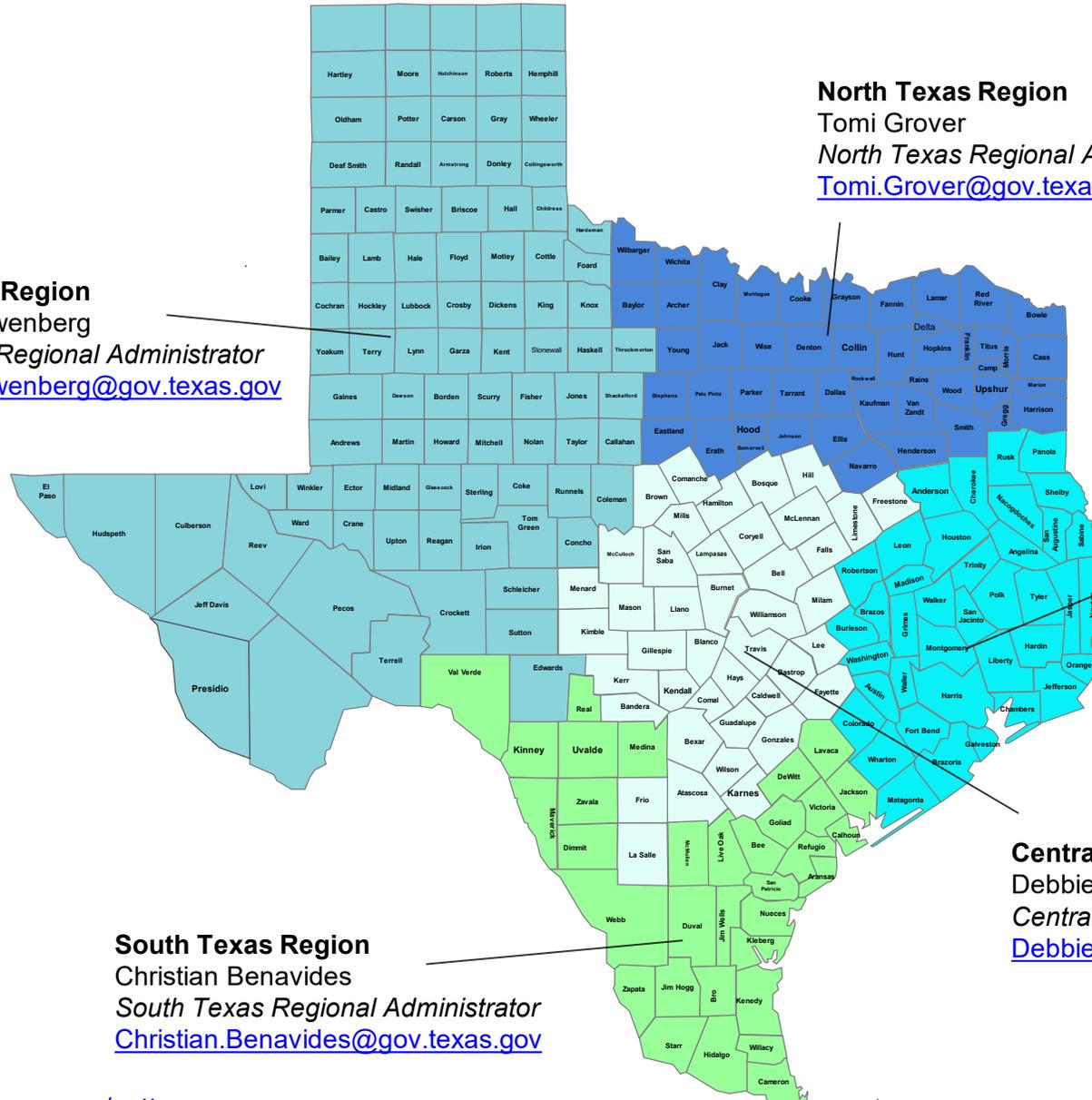
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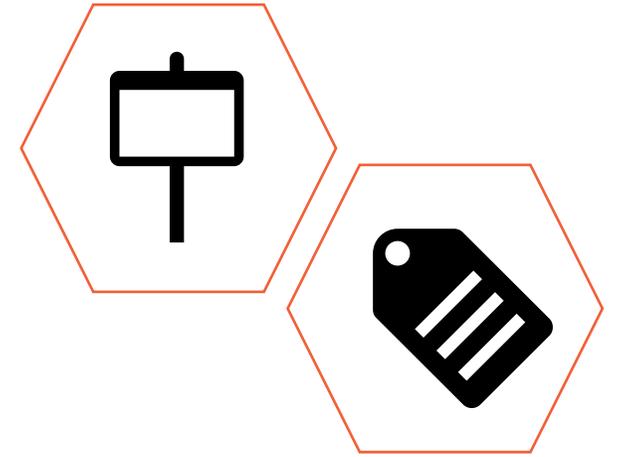
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PROTECT Texas

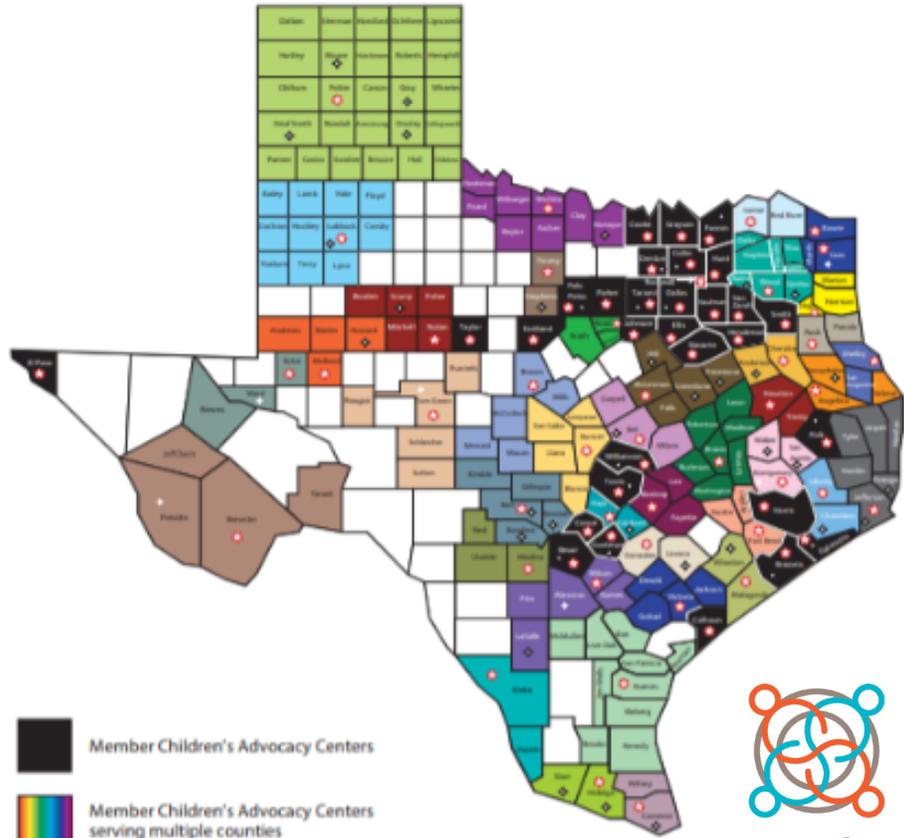


A human trafficking prevention education and training program designed to reduce the vulnerability of exploitation by identifying and preventing human trafficking using an evidence-based, trauma-informed education curriculum.

- Three-part [PROTECT Texas](#) online training modules for those working with youth:
 1. Human Trafficking 101: An Introduction to Child Exploitation
 2. Human Trafficking 102: Understanding Vulnerability and Trauma
 3. Human Trafficking 103: Red Flags, Reporting, and Implementing Prevention Education

- Courses are *free*, register at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/protect-online-training-for-tx-service-providers-tickets-100962304972

Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACs)

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

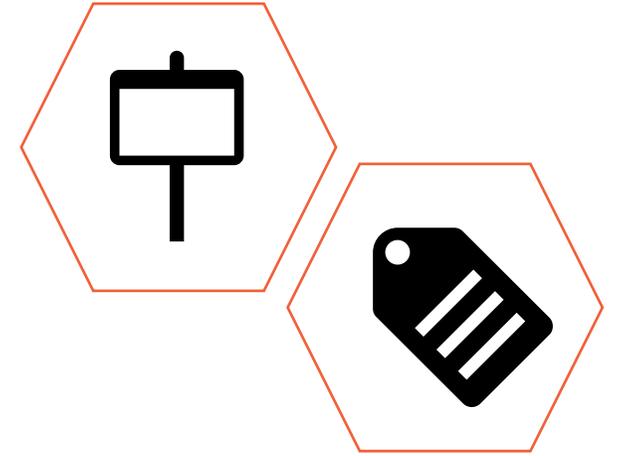
Counties not officially served by a CAC are often able to receive courtesy services from a nearby center.

For general information on CACs or child sexual abuse prevention, contact CACTX.

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

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

Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)



- Texas Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) offers guidance on [Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child: A Guide for Professionals](#) to help guide professional reporters through online/hotline reporting and how to identify abuse or neglect. Videos and other resources are provided to assist professionals in navigating the DFPS system.

For further training needs or questions, please contact the [CPS Community Engagement Specialist](#) in your area.

Questions?



Human Trafficking Program Contact

Abby Rodriguez, M.A.

State Coordinator, Military Connected Students and At-Risk Students

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/)

Phone: 512-463-9502

Email: PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.gov

