

AN ACT

relating to public school policy and training for public school employees addressing the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of certain children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 38.0041(a), (a-1), (b), and (c), Education Code, as amended by Chapter 762 (S.B. 2039), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, are reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, to be included in the district improvement plan under Section 11.252 and any informational handbook provided to students and parents.

(a-1) A school district may collaborate with local law enforcement and outside consultants with expertise in the prevention of sexual abuse and sex trafficking to create the policy required under Subsection (a), and to create a referral protocol for high-risk students.

(b) A policy required by this section must address:

(1) methods for increasing staff, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, including prevention techniques and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be

1 a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment,  
2 using resources developed by the agency or the commissioner  
3 regarding those issues, including resources developed by the agency  
4 under Section 38.004 [~~or by the commissioner under Section 28.017~~];

5 (2) actions that a child who is a victim of sexual  
6 abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment should take to obtain  
7 assistance and intervention; and

8 (3) available counseling options for students  
9 affected by sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment.

10 (c) The methods under Subsection (b)(1) for increasing  
11 awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and  
12 other maltreatment of children must include training, as provided  
13 by this subsection, concerning prevention techniques for and  
14 recognition of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and all other  
15 maltreatment of children, including the sexual abuse, sex  
16 trafficking, and other maltreatment of children with significant  
17 cognitive disabilities. The training:

18 (1) must be provided, as part of a new employee  
19 orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter  
20 school employees and to existing district and open-enrollment  
21 charter school employees on a schedule adopted by the agency by rule  
22 until all district and open-enrollment charter school employees  
23 have taken the training; and

24 (2) must include training concerning:

25 (A) factors indicating a child is at risk for  
26 sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment;

27 (B) likely warning signs indicating a child may

1 be a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other  
2 maltreatment;

3 (C) internal procedures for seeking assistance  
4 for a child who is at risk for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or  
5 other maltreatment, including referral to a school counselor, a  
6 social worker, or another mental health professional;

7 (D) techniques for reducing a child's risk of  
8 sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment; and

9 (E) community organizations that have relevant  
10 existing research-based programs that are able to provide training  
11 or other education for school district or open-enrollment charter  
12 school staff members, students, and parents.

13 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
14 school year.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 111 was passed by the House on March 20, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 111 was passed by the Senate on May 16, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor