January 16, 2018

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and High School Principals:

JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

In partnership with the PROTECT program (a group of nonprofit organizations committed to helping educators and students identify and prevent instances of human trafficking), the Office of the Attorney General, California Teachers Association, Department of Social Services, and Department of Health and Human Services, the California Department of Education (CDE) recognizes January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking is a global issue that has not only made its way to our state and region, but also to our public schools.

Human trafficking is the world’s fastest-growing criminal enterprise and is an estimated $150 billion-a-year global industry. Two million children are trafficked every year, including an estimated 100,000 in the United States. California has the highest rates of human trafficking in the nation according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Some victimized children are taken away from their homes, communities, and schools; some are hidden from view; while others are living the horrific experience of a trafficking victim in plain sight.

On October 7, 2017, Governor Brown signed groundbreaking legislation making California the first state to adopt human trafficking prevention education training for teachers and students. Sponsored by 3Strands Global Foundation (a PROTECT coalition founder), the Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act amends California Education Code (EC) Section 51934 of the Health Education Framework for grades seven through twelve to require human trafficking prevention education in public schools. This legislation also amends EC Section 51950 to require the continuation of training for school district personnel regarding human trafficking beginning January 1, 2018.

Additionally, Assembly Bill 1227 amended Section 16524.7 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code to add local educational agencies to the list of those who may be included in the multidisciplinary team serving commercially sexually exploited children and youth. Further, the bill added county offices of education as mandated participants in the development of an interagency protocol for counties who have opted in to the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program as outlined in Senate Bill 855.

The CDE has created a short online Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act Survey. California public schools provide a supportive and collaborative community that
integrates protective school management protocols for students to feel secure and thrive in their learning environment; therefore, your participation in the survey is vital to expanding California's effort to reduce—and ultimately eliminate—the vulnerabilities of students to human trafficking.

The information obtained from the survey will further California's efforts to create safer schools and communities well-informed about the predatory strategies of traffickers and human trafficking prevention. The information will also guide the coordination and development of human trafficking response protocols to intervene when students are suspected of being victims of human trafficking.


For more information regarding the training requirements for school personnel, please visit the California Legislative Information Web page at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1227.

For information regarding human trafficking resources, please visit the CDE Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/vp/commssexexploitationchild.asp.

If you have any questions regarding the Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act Survey, please contact Jacie Ragland, Education Programs Consultant, Coordinated Student Support Division, by phone at 916-323-2568 or by e-mail at jragland@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

Ashley M. Bryant, Co-Founder and President
3Strands Global Foundation
Co-Founder PROTECT

Attorney General Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of the State of California

Will Lightbourne, Director
Department of Social Services

Eric Heins, President
California Teachers Association

TT/XB/AMB/WL/EH:jr
2018-00300
AB 1227 (Bonta) – Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act
(As Amended September 8, 2017)

SUMMARY
AB 1227 requires California public schools to offer education and training on human trafficking identification and prevention in order to avert children from being exploited for labor or sex.

BACKGROUND
Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and is an estimated $150 billion-a-year global industry. Two million children globally and at least 100,000 in the United States are commercially sexually exploited every year. The average age of sex trafficking victims is between 11 to 14 years old. California also has particularly high human trafficking rates compared to the rest of the nation.

THE NEED FOR THE BILL
It is necessary for counties to implement comprehensive prevention education and training procedures in order to reduce incidents of human trafficking. Providing students with awareness and education can minimize the possibility of trafficking as a result of tactics used by traffickers, such as force, fraud or coercion. Training teachers and administrators can help provide the tools necessary to identify when a child is at risk of being trafficked.

SOLUTION
AB 1227:
- Requires school districts to include human trafficking prevention education in grades 7-12 (at least once in middle school and once in high school) as part of comprehensive sexual health education
- Requires continuation training about human trafficking to be conducted periodically for school district personnel
- Includes the county office of education and county sheriff’s department in the interagency protocol to be utilized in serving sexually exploited children
- Adds requirements to the Education Code regarding the training of educators and students about human trafficking

Such comprehensive prevention education and training procedures would be designed to:
- Coordinate the efforts of counties, local agencies, and other stakeholders through agreed-upon protocols
- Train county leadership, administrators, and educators to identify children that have been, or may be at risk of being, exploited, and how to proceed when potential victims are identified
- Teach California’s school-age population how to avoid becoming victims of exploitation, and help them learn ways to address the problem of exploitation

SUPPORT
3Strands Global Foundation
Alameda County Office of Education
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Association of California School Administrators
Bridge Network
California Catholic Conference
California District Attorneys Association
California Teachers Association
Children’s Advocacy Institute
California School Board Association
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)
Community Solutions
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento County
Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives
Freedom House
Hadassah
Junior League of CA
Lawyers Club of San Diego
Love Never Falls
The Lynch Foundation
Polaris
Soroptimist Sierra Nevada
South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking
Tiffany Y. Gipson – Deputy District Attorney of Alameda
150+ individuals

CONTACT
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