



Horizon Montessori Public Schools

"Tomorrow's Education Today"

2402 E. Business Hwy. 83 Weslaco, Texas 78596

To: South Texas Education Technologies, Inc. dba Horizon Montessori Public Schools Board
From: Yolanda Cantu, Assistant Superintendent
Date: January 20, 2022
Subject: Human Trafficking of School-aged Children – TEA Information

As per TEA, 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 using threats of violence, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and withholding of 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 able to identify and report human trafficking, thus facilitating the child's rescue by law enforcement.

TEA Trainings:

Below is the Texas RISE to the Challenge training. Also included is a human trafficking manual for school personnel developed by the Task Force. Additional resources may be available in your area.

- 1) [Introduction to Human Trafficking for Education Professionals: Texas RISE to the Challenge](#) (PDF, 2193 KB)
- 2) [Introduction to Human Trafficking: A Guide for Texas Education Professionals](#) (outside source)
- 3) [Human Trafficking Power and Control Wheel](#) (outside source)

Sincerely,


Yolanda Cantu

Assistant Superintendent

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