

What is Senate Bill 9?

Senate Bill 9 requires public schools to provide instruction to students in grades 6-12 relating to the prevention of dating violence, child abuse, and family violence to help prevent human trafficking. The bill goes into effect beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

Why is Senate Bill 9 needed?

Although common depictions of human trafficking feature an abductor who is a relative stranger to their victim, research shows that the relational distance between victims and their survivors is often quite close. This is especially true of minor sex trafficking, and many child victims are groomed by traffickers who position themselves as romantic partners offering validation and emotional support. These relationships quickly turn into emotionally and/or physically abusive relationships as the trafficker gains power. Other children are trafficked by family members or close friends, and this victimization is only a piece of a larger pattern of abuse. In fact, a history of child abuse, neglect, exposure to violence in the home, and experiences of relationship violence are a few of the most consistent indicators of vulnerability to victimization by traffickers.

How does Senate Bill 9 prevent human trafficking?

Traffickers seek out those children who are most vulnerable, and schools are an invaluable support and touch point for those children. This bill is an important first step in providing children with the healthy relationship training they need to recognize grooming, coercion, and abuse. This preventative curriculum would empower children to recognize abusive and unhealthy relationships and make an outcry.

How will Friendswood ISD address child abuse, dating violence, family violence, and human trafficking with our students?

Friendswood ISD has partnered with Unbound Houston and the Friendswood Police Department to develop a curriculum that is compliant with state requirements and relevant to the needs of our students.

You may view the curriculum relating to Human Trafficking by visiting unboundhouston.org.

Curriculum relating to dating violence, child abuse, and family violence has been developed by our district with input from the Friendswood Police department and is available for viewing on the district's web page <https://www.myfisd.com/parents-and-students/social-emotional-learning/sb9>.

If after reviewing the curriculum, you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation, please contact the counseling center on your student's campus.

We appreciate your support as we implement these new safety measures.