Human Trafficking School Safety Protocol (HTSSP) Definitions

At-Risk individuals may be a part of one or many different marginalized groups. Traffickers disproportionately target at-risk populations including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence (child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, community and gang violence) and individuals disconnected from stable support networks (runaway and homeless youth, unaccompanied minors, persons displaced during natural disasters). The following individuals are especially vulnerable to exploitation:

- Individuals who have experienced childhood abuse or neglect
- Children and youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems
- People experiencing homelessness
- American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
- Survivors of violence
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals
- Migrant workers
- Undocumented immigrants
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- People with low incomes
- People with a history of substance abuse
- Communities exposed to intergenerational trauma

Culturally Responsive is the ability to learn from and relate respectfully with people of your own culture and those from other cultures in order to effectively, equitably, and respectfully provide services that are responsive to diverse cultural beliefs and practices.

Human Trafficking School Safety Protocol (HTSSP) is a guide for educators and other school staff that is used to ensure the safety of students, educators, and other staff reporting human trafficking and other forms of violence; ensure that educators and other staff comply with state mandatory reporting laws; and ensure that students are connected with service providers and/or programs that will reduce further exposure to violence and victimization.

Identified Victims of Human Trafficking are those individuals who self-identify as victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons, individuals who have been identified by law enforcement as having been subjected to a severe form of trafficking in persons, or individuals who have been screened by victim assistance providers trained on human trafficking and found to be a victim of trafficking.

Linguistically Appropriate refers to the provision of services that are responsive to diverse preferred languages, literacy, and other communication needs.

Person-Centered approach promotes the safety and well-being of individuals and minimizes potential re-traumatization associated with criminal justice and other intervening processes. For the anti-trafficking response system, this can include providing support through victim

advocates and service providers, empowering survivors as engaged participants, and providing survivors an opportunity to play a role in seeing their traffickers brought to justice. The person-centered approach plays a critical role in supporting a victim's rights, dignity, autonomy, and self-determination, while simultaneously advancing the government's and society's interest in prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims.

Other Forms of Violence and Exploitation refers to adverse experiences that are not considered human trafficking but may increase an individual's risk to human trafficking. Other forms of violence and exploitation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Physical and emotional abuse, or neglect
- Witnessing violence in the home or community
- Substance misuse, or abuse
- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Intimate partner violence

Potential Victim of Human Trafficking is any individual who is reported or suspected as being a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Self-disclosure occurs when person identifies themselves as potentially at-risk of human trafficking, as a victim of human trafficking, or other related form of violence.

Trauma-Informed approach includes an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on individuals, as well as on the professionals who help them. A trauma-informed approach includes person-centered practices. A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed realizes the widespread impact of traumatic events experienced by the victim; recognizes the signs and symptoms of vicarious trauma in staff, clients, and others involved in the anti-trafficking response system; identifies paths for support and healing; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Like a person-centered approach, a trauma-informed approach prioritizes the safety and security of victims, including safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims.