

**Subject: Senate Bill 401 - Mandated Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Education**

Dear Superintendents, RESA Directors, and Principals,

The purpose of this email is to provide information and resources to support implementation of [Senate Bill 401](#) (2018 legislative session) requiring annual, age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades K-9 and in-service training for school personnel.

Georgia's Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, led by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, published a Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG) on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention. The TARG identifies best practices, principles of prevention, resources for the classroom, and age-appropriate teaching suggestions. It also explains how to develop a prevention plan and provides a detailed analysis of specific programs and guidelines for program implementation and evaluation. The TARG can be found online at [Prevent Child Abuse Georgia](#).

The TARG identifies seven top programs that met the criteria established by the authors. These seven programs include:

- ***Child Safety Matters***
- ***The Healthy Relationship Project***
- ***Not a #Number***
- ***Second Step – Child Protection Unit***
- ***Speak Up Be Safe***
- ***Think First & Stay Safe***
- ***Teen Lures TV Newscast School Program***

Criteria for program analysis as well as other programs for consideration may be found in the TARG in Chapter 5, beginning on page 53. Additional programs are currently being analyzed and will be updated as they become available.

Also, the Georgia Department of Education is working closely with the Department of Family and Children Services, the Office of the Child Advocate, and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia to update the current *Mandated Reporting* training video to include sexual abuse and assault awareness training. This updated video will meet the annual school personnel training requirements for both *Mandated Reporting* and *Sexual Assault Awareness*. We will send notification to all school districts when the video becomes available.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Benefield [cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cbenefield@doe.k12.ga.us), Jeff Hodges [jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us), Therese McGuire [tmcguire@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:tmcguire@doe.k12.ga.us), or Mike Tenoschok [mtenoschok@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mtenoschok@doe.k12.ga.us).

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