

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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City Council Bill 22-0139R **Investigative Hearing – Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions**

February 1, 2023

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) has reviewed City Council Bill 22-0139R, which invites representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the State’s Attorney, the Baltimore Police Department, the Baltimore City Fire Department, the Baltimore City Public School System Police (School Police), and the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office, among others, who provide identified victims of human trafficking with emergency interventions and supportive services, to brief the City Council on the scope of the human trafficking problem in Baltimore City, current efforts to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, further strategies that could be implemented to bring these individuals to justice, and resources that are needed to assist survivors of human trafficking.

City Schools agrees effective collaboration between law enforcement and advocacy groups and local, state, and federal officials is key to protecting and providing resources to vulnerable members of our society who are at risk of, or have survived, human trafficking. As such, City Schools appreciates the opportunity to share information with the Baltimore City Council regarding the role of School Police in combatting and investigating human trafficking in Baltimore City.

City Schools is pleased to participate in the Human Trafficking Collaborative, which has proven to be an incredibly effective venue for the partnership between School Police, the Baltimore Police Department and Homeland Security Investigations. When suspicions of human trafficking arise involving students, school staff inform social workers or school police. The district’s reporting protocols ensure School Police then immediately report any suspicions of human trafficking to the Collaborative as its members have the capacity for further investigation. The district appreciates having a designated detective as our point of contact for the Collaborative and any situations that arise regarding human trafficking.

With respect to training for School Police, all officers have received training from Thomas Stack, Anti-Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Response Manager. We are currently coordinating a refresher training in 2023. As for training for educators and school administrators on identifying and reporting suspicions of human trafficking, Child Protective Services presented to school social workers in August 2022 during the district’s initial professional development of the school year. In addition, central office social work leaders and supervisors have also attended trainings by The Center for Safe Schools and by the National Association of School Social Workers – Maryland.

In addition to staff training, City Schools is committed to promoting student awareness of human trafficking by including the issue in the district's health curriculum. Please see below for additional information:

Human Trafficking in City Schools' Health Curriculum

In addition to some of the explicit lessons and learning objectives listed below, City Schools' Health Education curriculum:

- Aligns to the [Maryland State Health Education Framework](#)
- Begins teaching about safety and violence prevention in primary grades (K-2) with objectives such as:
 - Explaining actions that help children to stay safe around strangers.
 - Identifying how to respond when asked to keep an uncomfortable secret.
 - Identifying how familiar people, or people in authority, can help or harm children.
 - Demonstrating refusal skills and other ways to take action if someone is making a child feel uncomfortable, unsafe, or disrespected.
 - Explain the importance of sharing all information with parents, guardians, or trusted adults.
- Spirals learning about boundaries and consent from Pre-K to High School.
 - Sample Pre-K Objective: Identify that everyone has the right to tell others not to touch their body when they do not want to be touched. (1d.p.8)
 - Sample High School Objective: Define and identify affirmative consent, sexual coercion, boundary violations, and situations when an individual can and cannot give consent. (1d.HS1.10)
- Teaches students about bystander intervention, safety, abuse, and assault, trusted adults, healthy relationships, social awareness, harassment, and technology safety.

Samples of grade-specific aligned objectives:

Grade 3

- Students demonstrate how a positive bystander can access help from a police officer, teacher, nurse, school counselor, parent, guardian, or another trusted adult to help a friend who is feeling unsafe, uncomfortable, or disrespected.

Grade 5

- Students explain that sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, and exploitation are never the fault of the victim.

Grade 7

- Students analyze laws, policies, and consequences related to sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and human trafficking that are designed to protect young people.

Health Ed II

- Students examine multiple ways to report sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and human sex trafficking.

- Students analyze laws, policies, and consequences related to child sexual abuse images and human trafficking that are designed to protect young people.

Partners and Events

- The Baltimore City Police Department provides workshops to City Schools' health education teachers to understand the signs of human trafficking, how to report it, and how to support the student.
- The Baltimore City Police Department supports district events like the [May 2022 Health Ed Symposium](#) in which they reached about 150 students to educate them on the services available to them and how to report mistreatment.
- [Advocates for Youth](#) (also part of the Health Ed Symposium) provides supplemental lessons at the middle and high school levels on sex trafficking.

City Schools and City Schools Police stand ready to work with the Baltimore City Council and other law enforcement agencies to continue examining how best to address the impact of human trafficking for students, families, and the citizens of Baltimore. We look forward to participating in further discussions.