Parent/Caregiver Engagement Program

The 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education **(NJSLS-CHPE), Standard 2.3** on Personal Safety, includes performance expectations addressing online safety and human trafficking. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Education's *Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students* **(N.J.S.A. 18A:6-131.2–131.3)** provide guidance and recommended best practices for human trafficking awareness and prevention, including parent and caregiver engagement. Parents and caregivers benefit from learning about online enticement, sextortion, and human trafficking, including what these issues are, how to recognize warning signs, and how to help prevent their children from being victimized.

Connect for Freedom offers a parent/caregiver engagement program that school districts can use to support these student learning expectations and prevention guidelines. This includes a parent/caregiver presentation that can be offered either in person or virtually. This informative presentation takes approximately one hour and covers topics such as online enticement, sextortion, and human trafficking. It discusses how parents can help keep their children safe through parental controls, how to identify signs that their child may have been victimized online, recommended response protocols if a child discloses victimization, and other important information.

Parents will leave the presentation feeling empowered to help protect their children and informed about these topics. Online enticement, sextortion, and human trafficking can happen in any community, so it is important that parents have access to appropriate information regarding these serious issues.

Connect for Freedom has partnered with NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S) to help bring the parent/caregiver presentation to schools throughout New Jersey. NJ4S works with schools to coordinate and present the presentation to parents in their districts. Connect for Freedom and NJ4S are deeply committed to educating parents and children so families are better equipped to recognize risks and help prevent online enticement, sextortion, and human trafficking.

Parent/Caregiver Presentation Guide

Step 1: The designated point of contact will schedule a date for the Parent/Caregiver Presentation. The presentation can be held either in person or virtually.

Step 2: The point of contact will notify the principal or school administrator and invite local law enforcement to participate in the presentation.

Step 3 *(Recommended)***:** The point of contact will invite a mental health professional to attend the presentation to provide additional support. This may be a school mental health counselor and/or a community mental health professional (e.g., an NJ4S representative for New Jersey schools).

Step 4: The point of contact will notify parents and caregivers about the presentation with ample advance notice. This can be done through a letter, email, or notification through the parent portal.

Step 5: The point of contact will download the following materials to provide as hard copies during an in-person presentation or electronically through email or the parent portal for a virtual presentation.

Recommended Parent/Caregiver Materials:

- Department of Homeland Security — *How to Talk to Youth About Human Trafficking Guide*
  - https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/blue_campaign_youth_guide_508_1.pdf
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children — *Sextortion: What Parents Should Know*
  - https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/netsmartz/downloadable/tipsheets/sextortion-what-parents-should-know.pdf
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children — *Being a Trusted Adult*
  - https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/netsmartz/downloadable/tipsheets/being-a-trusted-adult.pdf
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children — *Talking to Teens About Sexting*
  - https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/netsmartz/downloadable/tipsheets/Talking%20to%20Teens%20About%20Sexting.pdf
- Bark — *Family Tech Contract*
  - https://connectforfreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/bark-Tech-Contract.pdf
- Additional and updated materials can be found on the Connect for Freedom Parent Additional Resources page:
  - https://connectforfreedom.org/parent-additional-resources/

Step 6: The principal or school administrator will determine who will deliver the Parent/Caregiver Presentation in collaboration with the point of contact and any participating law enforcement or mental health professionals.

Parent/Caregiver Presentation Agenda

- **Introduction of Presentation from the Principal**
- **Introduction of the Speakers in Attendance from the Principal**
  - Point of Contact Person, Law Enforcement, Optional Mental Health Professional
- **Law Enforcement Explain their Community's Experience with Online Enticement, Sextortion & Human Trafficking**
  - Real Life Examples are Crucial
- **Q&A for Law Enforcement**
- **Present Parent/Caregiver Presentation**
  - Highlight Importance of David's Story, Tech Agreement, and Handouts
- **Q&A for Presentation**
- **Host a Discussion Regarding Topics Covered**
  - Collaborate on Ways to Engage Their Community and School to Raise Awareness
- **Provide Handouts Before, During, or After Presentation**

[School Letterhead]

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your child's principal, I am writing to inform you about a program we will be implementing at _____ (School Name).

The 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (NJSLS-CHPE), Standard 2.3 on Personal Safety, include performance expectations addressing online safety and human trafficking. These expectations help students recognize potential risks, make informed decisions, develop strategies to navigate unsafe situations, and understand when and how to seek help.

Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Education's *Guidelines for Schools on the Prevention of Human Trafficking of Students* (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-131.2–131.3) provide guidance and recommended best practices for human trafficking awareness and prevention, staff training, identification of warning signs, reporting and response protocols, and parent and family engagement.

Our school will be implementing the Connect for Freedom (CFF) program to support these student learning expectations and prevention guidelines. The program provides age-appropriate education and resources focused on raising awareness of online exploitation and human trafficking, recognizing warning signs, and promoting safe online behaviors.

The program includes:

- Student lesson plans, presentations, and interactive activities
- Real-life survivor stories
- Student engagement campaigns
- Parent/caregiver presentations and resources
- School district response protocol and implementation guide
- School display kits
- Faculty and staff training

If a student is suspected of being approached, groomed, exploited, abused, or trafficked, school personnel will follow district reporting and response protocols, including contacting the appropriate authorities as required.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact _____ (Name of Appropriate School Personnel) at _____ (Telephone Number).

If you suspect your child is a victim of human trafficking, you may contact the Department of Homeland Security at 1-866-347-2423. For assistance from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, call 1-888-373-7888. If you believe your child has been sexually exploited, you may contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children CyberTipline at 1-800-843-5678.

Thank you, and I hope to see you at our parent meeting on _____ (Date) at _____ (Location) at _____ (Time).

Sincerely,

[Principal's Name]