School District Implementation Guide

YOUR GUIDE FOR A SEAMLESS IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONNECT FOR FREEDOM PROGRAM

CONNECT *for* FREEDOM
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Welcome Message



Thank you for partnering with Connect for Freedom to provide students, faculty, and families with important awareness and prevention education on online exploitation and human trafficking.

This guide is designed to help your district successfully implement the Connect for Freedom Program by providing step-by-step guidance, recommended timelines, resources, and best practices. Whether implementing the program district-wide or within select schools, this guide will serve as a roadmap to support a smooth and effective rollout.

Our team is committed to supporting you throughout the implementation process and is available to answer questions and provide assistance whenever needed.

We appreciate your commitment to student safety and look forward to working with you to create a safer and more informed school community.

The Connect for Freedom Team

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Role of the Superintendent

The Superintendent plays a critical leadership role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program throughout the school district. By championing the initiative and providing oversight, the Superintendent helps establish a district-wide commitment to student safety, online protection, and human trafficking prevention education.

Superintendent Responsibilities:

- **Present the Resolution to the Board of Education**
  - Introduce and support the resolution authorizing the implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program within the district's K-12 schools. Following Board approval, the district may begin the implementation process.
- **Designate a District Point of Contact**
  - Appoint a district representative who will serve as the primary liaison between the school district and the Connect for Freedom team. This individual will coordinate implementation activities, communications, and program support.
- **Verify Program Completion**
  - Upon successful completion of the Connect for Freedom Program, notify the Connect for Freedom team so that the district may receive a Certificate of Completion. This certificate may be used as supporting documentation during the district's NJQSAC evaluation process.



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Role of the District Point of Contact

The District Point of Contact serves as the primary liaison between the school district and the Connect for Freedom team. This individual plays a key role in coordinating the implementation process, facilitating communication, and ensuring that all schools within the district have the information and resources needed to successfully participate in the program.

District Point of Contact Recommended Responsibilities:

- **Faculty and Staff Preparation**
  - Schedule a professional development session during which faculty and staff complete a Human Trafficking 101 training selected by the school district.
  - Ensure that all faculty and staff are reminded of the district's response protocol for situations in which a student discloses online exploitation, human trafficking, or related victimization.

- **Parent and Caregiver Engagement**
  - Download and distribute the Parent Letter and Opt-Out Form provided by Connect for Freedom to all parents and caregivers within the district.
  - Schedule a district-wide parent/caregiver presentation. The pre-recorded Connect for Freedom parent presentation may be offered either in person or remotely.
  - Provide parents and caregivers with additional support materials during the presentation and/or make them available through the district's parent portal.
  - Whenever possible, invite a School Resource Officer (SRO) or local law enforcement representative to attend the parent presentation and answer questions related to online exploitation and human trafficking.

- **Program Coordination**
  - Notify the Connect for Freedom team whenever the program is being implemented within a school.
  - Serve as the primary point of communication between the district and Connect for Freedom throughout the implementation process.

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Role of the District Point of Contact

District Point of Contact Recommended Responsibilities:

- **School and Staff Engagement**
  - Meet with building principals to provide an overview of the Connect for Freedom Program and discuss implementation plans. This may be conducted in person or remotely.
    - Alternatively, districts may choose to distribute a program implementation brief to all staff.
  - Schedule a meeting with teachers who will be implementing the program to review lesson plans and available resources.
  - Share the Connect for Freedom Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with teachers, administrators, counselors, and other appropriate personnel.
  - Inform guidance staff about the implementation of the program and provide links to available support resources.
  - Provide security personnel with access to supplemental human trafficking awareness materials available through Connect for Freedom.

- **Community Collaboration**
  - Notify local law enforcement agencies about the implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program.
  - Inform local hospitals and healthcare partners about the program and the possibility that students may disclose experiences that require medical attention or support services.

- **School Awareness and Student Support**
  - Coordinate the printing and display of school awareness materials and display kits at least one week prior to program implementation.
  - Work with principals to explore after-school programs focused on healthy relationships, personal safety, and prevention education.
    - Give special consideration to vulnerable student populations, including students experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities, unaccompanied immigrant youth, foster youth, and other at-risk populations.

- **Ongoing Support**
  - Maintain communication with Connect for Freedom regarding implementation progress.
  - Contact Connect for Freedom whenever additional training, resources, or implementation support is needed.

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Role of the Teachers

Teachers play a vital role in the successful implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program. Through classroom instruction and student engagement, teachers help equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize, prevent, and respond to online exploitation, human trafficking, and other safety concerns.

By creating a safe and supportive learning environment, teachers encourage meaningful discussions that promote awareness, critical thinking, responsible decision-making, and personal safety.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- **Program Instruction**
  - Deliver the Connect for Freedom lessons and educational materials to students in accordance with the district's implementation plan.
  - Educate K-12 students using the program's lesson plans, videos, activities, and other instructional resources.
  - Foster age-appropriate discussions that reinforce key concepts related to online safety, exploitation prevention, healthy relationships, and human trafficking awareness.
  - Follow all district policies and procedures regarding student disclosures and reporting requirements.

- **Student Engagement and Reinforcement**
  - Provide students with opportunities to participate in enrichment and student engagement activities that reinforce and expand upon the concepts taught within the Connect for Freedom lessons.
  - Encourage participation in awareness campaigns, classroom projects, discussions, creative activities, and other learning experiences that promote student understanding and retention of program content.
  - Collaborate with school counselors, administrators, and other staff members when additional student support or resources may be beneficial.
  - Utilize supplemental resources provided by Connect for Freedom to enhance student learning and engagement.

Through their leadership in the classroom, teachers serve as trusted educators and mentors who help students build the knowledge, confidence, and awareness necessary to stay safe both online and within their communities.

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Key Steps in Timeline

Approve Program → **Faculty/Staff Training & Response Protocol** → **Parent/Caregiver Presentation** → **Student Lessons & Engagement**

1. Superintendent introduces and supports the resolution authorizing the implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program within the district's K-12 schools. Following Board approval, the district may begin the implementation process.
2. District point of contact schedules a professional development session during which faculty and staff complete a Human Trafficking 101 training selected by the school district. The district's response protocol is reinforced during this time.
3. District point of contact schedules a district-wide parent/caregiver presentation. The pre-recorded Connect for Freedom parent presentation may be offered either in person or remotely.
4. Teachers deliver the Connect for Freedom lessons and educational materials to students in accordance with the district's implementation plan.



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Thank you!

Thank you for your commitment to implementing the Connect for Freedom Program and helping to create a safer environment for students, faculty, and families. Your dedication to educating young people about online exploitation and human trafficking plays an important role in protecting and empowering the next generation.

We appreciate the time, effort, and collaboration that goes into successfully implementing this program within your school district. Together, we can provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions and seek help when needed.

If you have any questions during the implementation process or require additional support, resources, or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the Connect for Freedom team at info@connectforfreedom.org.

Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to educate, empower, and protect youth.



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