

July 31, 2014

To the Administrator Addressed:

Subject: Mandatory 2014-15 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training and Posting of Child Abuse Hotline Number

The purpose of this letter is to inform all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools of two new statutory requirements for the upcoming 2014-15 school year that will require immediate action. Please communicate with appropriate personnel to ensure implementation of the items below.

Training

In accordance with Texas Education Code, (TEC) §38.0041, districts and charter schools are required to provide, to ***all*** district and charter school employees, training concerning prevention techniques for and recognition of sexual abuse and all other maltreatment of children. A mandatory training schedule has been adopted by Commissioner Rule in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §61.1051. Training must be provided on or by the following dates:

- September 30, 2014, for all K-grade 5 teachers, campus principals, and bus drivers;
- December 31, 2014, for all remaining teachers, campus principals, and bus drivers; and
- May 31, 2015, for all remaining school staff.

Additionally, districts and charter schools are required to maintain records that include the name of each employee who participates in training. Training is available in both face-to-face and online formats. Training resources may be used in combination to fulfill statutory requirements for sexual abuse prevention training, recognition of other maltreatment of children and child abuse reporting training. For assistance with employee training that is aligned with requirements in TEC, § 38.0041, contact one or more of the following entities.

- **Sexual Abuse Prevention Training:** Darkness to Light (D2L) provides online or face-to-face training and printed certificates. Online record keeping and reporting of employee participation is available upon request. www.D2L.org/TXEd
- **Recognition of Maltreatment of Children and Child Abuse Reporting Training:** Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) provides online training and printed certificates: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Training/Reporting/default.asp>

Additional local contacts for face-to-face training:

- Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas – search for local centers in your community that may provide more information on training opportunities: www.cactx.org
- DFPS Regional [Education Specialists](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact_us/map.asp) for information on face-to-face training: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/contact_us/map.asp

Poster

All campuses are required to post, at student eye-level, in at least one high-traffic area, and in both English and Spanish, a poster (11 x 17 inches or larger) with information that includes the

Texas DFPS Abuse Hotline telephone number, instructions to call 911 and directions to www.txabusehotline.org.

To download a poster that was developed to meet the requirements of TEC, §38.0042, and TAC, §61.1051, visit: <http://www.onewithcourage.org/take-action/for-educators/>

For additional information about child abuse and neglect reporting and prevention resources visit TEA's Child Abuse Prevention website: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index.aspx?id=2820>. To view TAC, §61.1051, visit <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter061/ch61ee.html> for the adopted rule in its entirety. Thank you for your immediate attention to these new statutory requirements. Your efforts to promote the safety of Texas school children is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Monica Martinez
Associate Commissioner, Standards and Programs