NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*
www.dpi.nc.gov

October 9, 2024

Dear Superintendents,

I am pleased to introduce you to the landing page for the North Carolina Education Modules developed under the Protecting Our Students Act (Session Law 2023-128/HB142). This essential programming has been created by the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools in collaboration with Capitol Broadcasting Company, aimed at equipping K-12 school employees with vital information regarding inappropriate behavior and adult sexual misconduct in school environments.

As stipulated in Session Law 2023-128/HB142, it is required that these videos be viewed by students in grades six through twelve across all public school units. The videos for school staff are strongly suggested to be viewed by all school personnel. The school staff/adults should view their video prior to students reviewing the information so that adults are prepared to facilitate the middle and high schools courses/videos. School staff who are facilitating the middle/high school course/video should also read the facilitator guides provided with the student (high school and middle school videos). We are sharing these materials to ensure compliance with this legislation and to provide you with the necessary resources.

The Protecting Our Students Video Course Guide and Canvas Course has been designed to assist North Carolina Public School Units (PSUs) in delivering the Protecting Our Students Videos to both staff and students. This no-cost training package will help you understand how to access these videos within the Canvas system. *Any staff that has NCEd CLoud access will be able to access Canvas courses through NCEd Cloud even if the PSU does not have Canvas LMS.* For staff that do not have NCEd Cloud, the materials can be uploaded to your own management system or utilized in platforms such as Google Classroom. The links are provided on the Protecting Our Students Course Guide and each NC Region has a unique link for your region for each video/course (middle, high school, and school staff).

Please note that it is critical to maintain the integrity of the training content by not altering it, as this is essential for meeting legislative requirements. Students do not take these courses independently. Students do not log in and complete a course. Staff must facilitate this video and details about this are provided in the course guide description. This course is designed for staff to share this information with students while providing support and guidance.

All PSUs will be required to submit an attestation form confirming and verifying that they have shared the course and the videos for middle and high school students (Grades 6-12). Please use

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this attestation form located here. Submit completed attestation forms to NC CFSS at schoolsafety@dpi.nc.gov. The attestation form is a required attestation form submission completed by the Human Resources Director and Superintendent of each PSU. Students do not sign attestation forms. This attestation form is for PSUs to submit indicating they have facilitated the course and videos with middle and high school (Grades 6-12) students.

All adults working in schools are *strongly suggested* to complete a quiz to verify their completion of the "Protecting Our Students" videos. Public School Units (PSUs) are *strongly suggested* to submit this attestation form to the NC CFSS confirming that all school staff—both classified and certified—along with any adult engaging with students during campus or school-related activities, have viewed the mandated "Protecting Our Students" videos in accordance with Session Law 2023-128/HB 142. Please see the school staff attestation form here. Submit completed attestation forms to schoolsafety@dpi.nc.gov . In the Canvas course, school staff can have the option for a printable certificate. If school staff do not have an NCEd Cloud account to log in Canvas, a printable certificate is available in the course guide linked above.

Clear communication is vital for effective prevention. Together, we can establish a robust support network that empowers and protects our children. Our experiences have shown that proactive measures taken by adults are far more effective than relying on children to protect themselves from sexual abuse. It is crucial for students to receive accurate, age-appropriate information, along with reassurance that trusted adults are there to support and protect them. Additionally, it is important for all staff to understand which inappropriate behaviors must be reported to foster a safe environment for all students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Center for Safer Schools at schoolsafety@dpi.nc.gov . This email address is specifically designated for inquiries regarding these training videos and Session Law 2023-128/HB142.

Thank you for your commitment to creating a safer environment for our students. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Karen W. Fairley