

Human Trafficking Education

August 25, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

For our next unit of study in Healthful Living we will be discussing Human Trafficking Safety. NC Senate Bill 279 mandates that all students in grades 7-9 receive instruction concerning trafficking prevention and awareness.

Each local school administrative unit shall:

1. Collaborate with outside consultants, including law enforcement with expertise in sex trafficking prevention education, to address the threats of sex trafficking.
2. Collaborate with outside consultants, including law enforcement with expertise in sex trafficking, on a referral protocol for high-risk pupils and minors.

All WCPSS students in grades 7-9 will participate in a lesson on Human Trafficking, presented by members of the school Counseling and Student Services staff during one Healthful Living class period. Per item 2 above, students will participate in a survey to help staff in identifying high-risk pupils and referring them to assistance resources.

The district will honor passive consent regarding opting students out of this lesson. Parents wishing to opt their student out of this lesson must do so in writing to the school principal prior to the presentation of the lesson, which is scheduled for the week of September 29, 2025.

Human Trafficking Objectives to be taught by grade level:

Grade 7 – 7.ICR.3.3 Recognize that sexual harassment may contribute to sexual abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking and the feelings that result from these behaviors.

Grade 8 – 8.ICR.1.2 Identify the reasons that people engage in violent behaviors (bullying, hazing, dating violence, sexual assault, family violence, verbal abuse, sex trafficking) and resources for seeking help

Grade 9 – 9.ICR.1.5 Explain how power and control in relationships can contribute to aggression, violence and sex trafficking.

Please contact your school counseling department with questions regarding the materials used in this instruction.

Sincerely,

Jessica Merry, Dean of Students
Terwana Donaldson, SAP Counselor
Evelyn Hornacek, School Counselor (A-L)
Kelly Watson, School Counselor (M-Z)