Human Trafficking Education:

Information for Schools and Educators

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Human Trafficking Education

Dear Educators,

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code (Chapter 15.1-09) public schools are mandated to provide educational presentations on human trafficking awareness and prevention to students in 6th, 10th, and 12th grades. To support schools in meeting this requirement, the statewide nonprofit organizations **31:8 Project and Youthworks** were selected to collaborate with schools across North Dakota to deliver this important education.

In June of 2026, the curriculua we developed was formally approved by the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission to fulfill legislative requirements.

Our goal is to equip students with information that promotes online and personal safety, helps them recognize potential risks, and encourages them to reach out to trusted adults when something does not feel right.

All materials used in the presentations are **developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and focused on prevention and awareness** consistent with state requirements.

In this packet, you will find detailed information about the curriculum for each grade level, as well as additional resources to support educators and students.

Thank you for partnering with us to support the safety and well-being of all students. We look forward to this meaningful collaboration!

Sincerely,

31:8 Project and Youthworks

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Curriculum

6th Grade: How to Be Safe In Person and Online

Students in 6th grade will participate in a presentation titled “How to Be Safe: In Person and Online.”
During the presentation, students will learn about:

- What is means to feel safe and respected.
- The difference between safe surprises and unsafe secrets.
- Listening to their instincts when something doesn’t feel right.
- Online safety, including recognizing safe and unsafe communication in games, apps, and social media platforms.
- What makes someone a trusted adult and identify safe adults they can talk to if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

The presentation features ‘expert safety buddy’ Grizzly, 31:8 Project’s therapy dog in training! Grizzly helps guide students through important safety concepts in a way that is engaging and easy to understand.



10th & 12th Grades: Protecting Yourself & Others

Understanding Human Trafficking and Online Safety

Students in 10th & 12th grades will participate in a presentation titled “Protecting Yourself & Others: Understanding Human Trafficking and Online Safety.”
During the presentation, students will learn about:

- How to recognize unsafe or unhealthy situations in person and online.
- Define human trafficking and sextortion and how it may affect students.
- Build skills to protect themselves and those around them.
- Know where and how to get help.

Distinctions between the 10th & 12th Grade Curriculums

The 10th grade presentation includes additional discussion on identifying trusted adults and strategies students can use when faced with concerning situations.
The 12th grade presentation focuses more on life after high school, including increased independence, workplace safety, relationships, and navigating adulthood.

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Human Trafficking Education

In the Case of Student Disclosure

The presentations may bring up a variety of sad, distressing, or embarrassing feelings or memories for students. As an educator you may be a safe or trusted adult for your students; expect that some may approach you following the presentation to process their feelings and seek support. Students may disclose experiences such as trafficking, sextortion, sexual abuse, physical violence, bullying, or child abuse and neglect. It is essential that educators are prepared to respond in a calm, supportive, and appropriate manner while following all mandatory reporting laws and school policies.

If a Student Discloses:

1. **Stay Calm and Present**
   - Listen without interrupting or reacting with shock.
   - Maintain a calm and supportive demeanor.

2. **Believe and Validate**
   - Take the student seriously.
   - Avoid judging, criticizing, or making light of the situation.
   - Use trauma informed care language.

3. **Follow School Protocol**
   - If your school does not have a written protocol-or if hasn't been updated in a while- it is a good idea to create or add to an already created one.
   - On the following page is a recommended workflow for a response protocol to human trafficking:.

Human Trafficking Education

Suspected Human Trafficking, Exploitation, or High Risk

- **Staff observes indicators**
- **Student disclosure**

Is the student in immediate danger?

- **YES** → **Call 911 immediately. Follow school emergency procedures.**
- **NO**

Note: How the disclosure or concern initially came to the attention of school staff (e.g., through a classroom assignment, online discussion, written communication, or disclosure to a staff member).

Ensure student is in a private, safe location. Stay calm and supportive.

Refer to school level protocol for responding to disclosure for abuse and notify designated support staff.

Document only objective observations and the student's exact account when possible.

Does the information disclosed substantiate a report?

Note: depending on the situation, you may be required to file multiple reports for the same student over a period of time as new information arises.

Note: refer to the previous page for tips on responding to student disclosures.

- **YES** → **File a mandatory report (960 report) to Child Protective Services.**
- **UNSURE** → **Consult adminstration or school social worker if applicable.**

Note: if there is reason to believe a parent, guardian, or household member is involved in the abuse or trafficking, **do not notify the parent or guardian before consulting CPS or law enforcement.**

In some cases, it may be appropriate to consult with local law enforcement (per school policy or CPS recommendations).

Note: the final steps should be delegated to school administration or support services, and not to classroom teachers.

Connect student with appropriate supports:

- **Regular visits with the School Counselor**
- **Mental health services**
- **Child Advocacy Center**
- **Youthworks**
- **Other community resources**

Develop a school safety and support plan for the student. Continue monitoring and documenting concerns.

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Human Trafficking Education

Words to Know

Vocabulary and exact definitions covered in the 6th, 10th , & 12th grade curriculum.

6th Grade

- **Human Trafficking**: this happens when someone tricks, pressures, or forces another person to do things for their own benefit.
- **Bad Actors**: people who make choices that hurt others or break rules on purpose.
- **Consent:** an important word that means agreeing or giving permission.
- **Instinct**: a gut feeling your body gives you when something doesn't feel right.
- **Trusted Adult**: is someone who listens to you, takes your concerns seriously, makes you feel supported, doesn't pressure you or make you feel uncomfortable, respects boundaries and doesn't ask you to keep secrets.

10th Grade

- **Labor Trafficking**: happens when someone is forced or pressured to work through threats, lies, or control.
- **Sex Trafficking**: occurs when a person is pressured, deceived or forced into sexual activities for someone else's benefit.
- **Vulnerability**: A situation or condition that makes it easier for someone to be hurt, manipulated, or taken advantage of.
- **Exploitation**: When someone unfairly uses another person for their own benefit — often for money, power, or control — without caring about that person's well-being.
- **Bad Actors**: People who intentionally try to harm, manipulate, deceive, or take advantage of others. This is a general term that can include individuals who groom, recruit, scam, or exploit others.
- **Perpetrators**: People who carry out harmful or illegal actions against others.
- **Sextortion**: is when someone threatens to share private or sexual images or information of a person unless they do something the person wants-like sending more images, money, or other favors.
- **AI Sextortion:** Bad actors use [AI] technology to generate fake sexual images and videos of someone else.
- **Non-Consensual Intimate Image Sharing**: Sharing sexual images or videos of someone without their consent.

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Human Trafficking Education

Words to Know Continued

Vocabulary and exact definitions covered in the 6th, 10th , & 12th grade curriculum.

12th Grade

- **Human Trafficking:** happens when someone uses force, fraud, and/or coercion to control another person for their own benefit.
- **Forced Criminality:** occurs when a trafficker compels a victim to commit crimes against their will.
- **Debt Bondage:** occurs when someone is forced to work to pay off a debt, often for little or no pay and without a clear end date.
- **Force:** physical violence, or threats of harm used to make someone comply.
- **Fraud:** lies or false promises used to deceive someone.
- **Coercion:** pressure, manipulation, or threats used to control or inhibit someone's choices.

Human Trafficking Education

Resources Shared With Students

6th Grade

- Trusted adult access and identification.
- For an emotional crisis: call, text, or chat online 988.
- In case of an emergency call 911.

10th Grade

- To report online exploitation: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) cyber-tipline
  - call or text 1-800-THE-LOST | 24/7
- For emotional crisis: call, text, or chat online 988.
- To remove any explicit images or videos taken of youth under 18:
  - Takeitdown.org

12th Grade

- To report online exploitation: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) cyber-tipline
  - call or text 1-800-THE-LOST | 24/7
- For emotional crisis: call, text, or chat online 988.
- To remove any explicit images or videos taken of youth under 18:
  - takeitdown.org
- To remove any explicit images or videos taken of adults 18+:
  - stopncii.org

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Educational Resources

In-person Training Opportunites

1. **31:8 Project's Annual Human Trafficking Summit**

2. **Request a tailored presentation from 31:8 Project or Youthworks.**

Online Resources

1. **National Center on Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)**
   - Cybertipline
     - Report missing children, child exploitation, or child sexual abuse materials to the cybertipline.
     - Text or Call 24/7: 1-800-843-5678 (THE-LOST).
     - Report an incident online at report.cybertip.org/reporting.
   - Netsmartz
     - NCMEC's online safety education program, featuring videos, activities, and more to help youth be safer online.
     - Visit missingkids.org/netsmartz/home.
   - Take it Down
     - A free service that can help remove sexually explicit images or videos taken of someone before they were 18 years old.
     - Visit takeitdown.ncmec.org

2. **National Human Trafficking Hotline**
   - If you believe you have information about a trafficking situation:
     - Call the toll-free hotline: **1-888-373-7888.**
     - Text JOIN to 233733 (BEFREE).
     - Chat online via humantraffickinghotline.org/chat.
     - All options are available 24/7.

31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

HOW TO BE SAFE
IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Dear Families,

As part of our commitment to student safety and well-being, students in 6th grade will participate in a presentation titled **"How to Be Safe: In Person and Online".** This lesson supports the human trafficking awareness and prevention education required for North Dakota students under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 15.1-09. The education will be presented by 31:8 Project, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to combatting human trafficking and exploitation in North Dakota.

The goal of this age-appropriate presentation is to help students better understand personal safety, healthy boundaries, and how to seek help if they ever find themselves in an uncomfortable or unsafe situation.

During the presentation, students will learn about:

- What is means to feel safe and respected.
- The difference between safe surprises and unsafe secrets.
- Listening to their instincts when something doesn't feel right.
- Online safety, including recognizing safe and unsafe communication in games, apps, and social media platforms.
- What makes someone a trusted adult and identify safe adults they can talk to if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

This material does not include graphic content and emphasizes empowerment, safety awareness, and identifying trusted adults for support.

Thank you for partnering with us to support the safety and well-being of all students.

Sincerely,

31:8 Project + Youthworks

www.318project.org **www.youthworksnd.org**

The presentation features 'expert safety buddy' Grizzly, 31:8 Project's therapy dog in training! Grizzly helps guide students through important safety concepts in a way that is engaging and easy to understand.



31:8 PROJECT | YW youthworks

Opt-Out Form

I **DO NOT** wish to have my child _____ participate in the Human Trafficking Education presentation.

Please make other arrangements for my child during the presentations.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to school administration.

Protecting Yourself & Others

Understanding Human Trafficking and Online Safety

Dear Families,

In accordance with the North Dakota Century Code (Chapter 15.1-09) students will participate in an educational presentation on human trafficking awareness and prevention. This education will be presented by **31:8 Project,** a statewide nonprofit focused on combating human trafficking and exploitation in North Dakota, and **Youthworks**, a statewide nonprofit committed to ensuring all youth have a safe place where they belong and are heard.

The presentation will cover topics such as:

- How to recognize unsafe or unhealthy situations in person and online.
- Define human trafficking and sextortion and how it may affect students.
- Build skills to protect themselves and those around them.
- Know where and how to get help.

All materials used in this presentation are **developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and focused on prevention and awareness** consistent with state requirements. The goal of this education is to equip students with knowledge and practical safety strategies.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or would like additional information on the material that will be presented, please contact school administration.

Thank you for partnering with us to support the safety and well-being of all students.

Sincerely,

31:8 Project + Youthworks

www.318project.org **www.youthworksnd.org**

Opt-Out Form

I **DO NOT** wish to have my child _____ participate in the Human Trafficking Education presentation.

Please make other arrangements for my child during the presentations.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to school administration.