

SUMMARY

AB 1766 requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider expanding human trafficking prevention education for students in grades K-12. Additionally, this bill requires the Commission to consider annual training for specified school personnel to ensure curriculum understanding.

BACKGROUND

Preventing human trafficking and breaking cycles of familial trafficking require robust efforts from our school system by educating students, supporting their safety and providing protections on and off campuses. Vulnerable youth are often targeted on school grounds and may continue to remain in school while being trafficked. For students who are trafficked by a family member, schools may be the only safe place to seek help.

According to the [Polaris Project](#), sex trafficking by family members was the most common recruitment strategy. Insufficient training for school professionals of the dynamics of familial trafficking can lead to less recognition and understanding by those in the best position to help.

In other circumstances, traffickers actively target school campuses, even push students to engage in sextortion and online sexual abuse. It is critical students, educators and staff are provided prevention education that increases awareness of tactics, boundary setting, risk factors and behaviors that promote healthy relationships and safety. Education at an early grade level with face-to-face instruction remains vital.

California's Instructional Quality Commission is responsible for advising the School Board of Education (SBE) on matters related to curriculum and instruction, including human trafficking prevention education. The IQC's duty is to develop and recommend curriculum framework, while working closely with the SBE to adopt it.

In 2015, AB 329 (Weber) established the California Healthy Youth Act requiring students in grades 7-12 receive sex education at least once in junior high or middle school and at least once in high school. AB 1227 (Bonta, 2017) later expanded existing law to include human trafficking prevention education. Building on this foundation, AB 1766 requires the IQC to consider expanding the reach and curriculum to more effectively address human trafficking.

BILL DETAILS

This bill requires the Commission to consider, when the health curriculum framework is revised, annual, evidence-based, survivor-informed, and culturally competent materials for grades K-12 on the following subject matter:

- How to prevent human trafficking, including online exploitation and intrafamilial exploitation risks.
- Help-seeking strategies, healthy boundaries and bodily autonomy.
- How to stay safe from sexually exploitative materials and online deepfakes.
- How to recognize and report concerning behaviors.

Additionally, AB 1766 requires the Commission to consider at least three school staff members, at least two being a school counselor, nurse, social worker or psychologist and a least one being a certified classroom teacher, to annually receive the following evidence-based, trauma informed training to:

- Identify students who may be victims of human trafficking or online exploitation.
- Clarify mandated reporting responsibilities and referral pathways.
- Avoid criminalization of students who may be exploited.
- Engage culturally diverse students.
- Better understand how to support early, developmentally appropriate reporting pathways.

SUPPORT

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