

Parents and Guardians,

The State Board of Education is requiring every Florida school district provide Elementary instruction about human trafficking and substance abuse. Aligned to our goals for fostering a safe and nurturing learning environment, this requirement ensures positive support for our students' social, emotional, and physical health.

Valrico Elementary provided K-5 Substance Use and Abuse Health Education during Red Ribbon Week, October 21-25, 2024 and K-5 Child Trafficking Prevention Education will be provided on December 20, 2024. K-5 Water Safety Education will occur throughout the 2024-25 school year. At this time, parents may only opt-out of the Child Trafficking Prevention Education. If you have questions related to this content, please contact your child's principal.

The following tables provide an overview for each of the required instructional components:

<b>Child Trafficking Prevention Education (Rule: 6A-1.094123)</b>	
Description	<p>School districts must provide annual instruction to students in grades K-12 related to child trafficking prevention and awareness. Florida is third in the nation for the number of reported cases of human trafficking. The average age of trafficked youth is 11 to 13 years old. In 2018, there were 767 human trafficking cases reported in Florida. Of those cases, 149 were minors.</p> <p>The child trafficking prevention education will advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill-building using the adopted health education standards found at <a href="http://www.cpalms.org">www.cpalms.org</a>.</p>
<b>Substance Use and Abuse Health Education (Rule 6A-1.094122)</b>	
Description	<p>For decades, Comprehensive Health Education has included substance use and abuse as part of required instruction through section 1003.42 (2)(n), Florida Statutes, but now requires districts to verify that instruction was delivered.</p> <p>According to federal reports, one person dies every 12.5 minutes from an opioid overdose. Also, youth vaping has been declared an epidemic of great concern. Statistics from 2012-2018 in Florida indicate electronic vaping increased among youth 11-17 years old by over 500%.</p> <p>Education on the prevention of substance use and abuse provides the knowledge, tools, and skills to help prevent drug addiction.</p>
<b>Water Safety</b>	
Description	<p>Florida Statutes 1002.225 (Water safety and swimming certification)</p> <p>Age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury or drowning. Schools shall provide information for water safety courses and swimming lessons.</p> <p>For more information on how to get connected to water safety courses please visit <a href="http://Water Safety (canva.com)">Water Safety (canva.com)</a></p>

**See below for additional resources to further assist parents:**

- Instructional plans can be found at <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/2435> and click on "Instructional Plans"
- Human trafficking: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthy-schools/human-trafficking.shtml>
- Monique Burr Foundation Curriculum: <https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org>
- District website: [Hillsborough County Public Schools / Homepage \(hillsboroughschools.org\)](http://Hillsborough County Public Schools / Homepage (hillsboroughschools.org))
- Water safety courses: [Water Safety \(canva.com\)](http://Water Safety (canva.com))

As always, our dedicated teachers and staff are here to support our students as they cover these critical topics. Once again, if you have any questions related to any of these required instructional mandates, please contact Tricia Simonsen, Principal or Christy Oliver, School Counselor at 813-744-6777. Documento disponible en español bajo petición.