July 9, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Annual Safety Trainings for School Personnel

School safety describes a range of campus conditions, including safety, relationships, and engagement. A positive school climate that provide students with ready access to safe environments can affect the capacity of students and staff to prevent, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

As you plan to reopen schools in the fall, the Alabama State Department of Education, Prevention and Support Services Section, wants to remind you of required safety trainings. Please ensure district-level administrators make certain that annual safety trainings are conducted and documented in the emergency operation platform in nSide. These trainings listed below are provided for your convenience:

A. School Emergency Operations Plan – 16-1-44(a)(b)(c)(1)
The Board shall adopt, incorporate, and update the Emergency Operation Plans to address serious threats to the safety of school property, students, and employees. In addition, school boards must provide Mental Health Awareness Training to all employees.

B. Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect – 26-14-3
According to the laws of Alabama, when a child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, it shall be required to report orally, either by telephone or direct communication immediately, followed by a written report, to a duly constituted authority.

C. Jamari Terrell Williams Act – Act 2018-472; HB366
The local board has a policy for Cyber Bullying—Jamari Terrell Williams Act. The local board has in place a clearly defined procedure for a student, or the parent or guardian of the affected student, to report bullying on a form authorized by the local board of education.

D. Erin’s Law (Child Sexual Abuse) – Act 2015-456, HB 197
This law requires all K-12 public schools to establish a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in Grades K-12 that includes at least four developmentally appropriate lessons building on skills learned in the previous years.

E. Jason Flatt Act (Suicide Awareness Prevention) – Act 2016-310, SB11
This law requires the implementation of comprehensive programs of suicide prevention that is designed for all students and employees.

F. Annalyn’s Law – 16-1-51.1
This law requires the Alabama State Board of Education to develop and each local school board to adopt a policy for the supervision and monitoring of students identified as juvenile sex offenders.

Please, look for future communications about our fall safety professional learning. If you have any questions regarding these laws, please contact Ms. Ayanna Long by email at along@alsde.edu.

EGM/AL/SB

cc: City and County Safety Coordinators

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