MISSISSIPPI

Total Score: **3.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task Force</th>
<th>Prevention Education</th>
<th>Definition of Abuse</th>
<th>Staff Training</th>
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<td>.5 of 1.5 total points</td>
<td>2 of 4.5 total points</td>
<td>1 of 1 total points</td>
<td>0 of 1 total points</td>
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**Why did my state receive this grade?** Mississippi has elements that are friendly to prevention but should take further action to make prevention education viably accessible to youth.

**Who does this exploitation and trafficking impact?** Each year millions of children are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, affecting communities small and large. This happens all over the world, including in your own community.

**How does this happen?** Children are most often exploited by an acquaintance (significant other, friend, family member, etc.). They are targeted, groomed, tricked, and manipulated.

**MISSISSIPPI BY NUMBERS**

- 77 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 39 human trafficking cases reported.
- 14 cases concerned a minor.
- 37 cases involved females, 4 involved males.

**MISSISSIPPI LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task Force?</th>
<th>Terms included in Mississippi’s Definition of Abuse:</th>
<th>Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels</th>
<th>Staff Training Requirements</th>
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| Task Force on Human Trafficking | Exploitation and Trafficking | • 2015 Mississippi Code Title 37 - EDUCATION Chapter 3 - STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION § 37-3-83  
• Topics: Sexual abuse (not including exploitation or trafficking)  
• Mandated for K-12 | Neither mandated nor recommended |
EXPLOITATION BY NUMBERS

- Approximately 1.6 million children run away every year in the United States.\(^2\)
- Of the nearly 27,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.\(^3\)
- There were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported in the United States in 2017 and 32% of those cases involved a minor.\(^4\)
- In 2017, 88% of trafficked children were in the care of social services at the time the exploitation began.\(^5\)

RECOMMENDED STEPS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

TASK FORCE

- Amend state task force to include a focus on the prevention of child exploitation and trafficking.
- Direct that a seat on the task force is filled by a child exploitation prevention expert.

PREVENTION EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- Mandate child exploitation prevention curriculum in all state public schools for all grade levels.
- Identify within the curriculum the need to educate youth with age appropriate curriculum on child exploitation, child trafficking, and child abuse.

STAFF TRAINING

- Mandate all state public school staff are trained to effectively recognize and respond to the signs of child exploitation and factors that make youth vulnerable to child exploitation.

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1 Polaris Project, Human Trafficking Hotline, 2017 State Statistics: [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states). Note that not all demographics are captured by every report to the hotline.


4 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states)


MISSION: We equip adults to empower youth to eradicate exploitation. For more info visit: [http://iempathize.org/educators/the-prevention-priority/](http://iempathize.org/educators/the-prevention-priority/)