



**Office of Public Instruction Presentation to
Education Interim Committee**
January 27, 2026

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Human & Sexual Trafficking Resources

The OPI has compiled and developed resources to empower parents, educators, child-care providers, and community members to protect children against sex trafficking and other forms of child sexual abuse. Many things can increase a child's vulnerability, such as unhealthy relationships, unfiltered social media or internet access, exposure to pornography, sexting, bullying, substance abuse, homelessness, low self-confidence, etc.

Recent Partnership

[Fight! Child Abuse](#)

- The Office of Public Instruction announced this partnership in October 2025. The Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center Foundation materials provide educators with free tools to address critical issues that affect children’s well-being. It includes videos, lesson plans, and activities to educate on child sexual abuse topics such as unsafe touch. By incorporating these resources into classrooms, Montana schools will be able to educate students on how to protect themselves, make safe choices,

and recognize warning signs of exploitation, while also promoting social-emotional health and resilience.

Resource Highlights

[Montana Safe Schools Center](#)

- Montana Safe Schools Center is able to provide a variety of in person trainings for school personnel including child exploitation & human trafficking.
- During the OPI Summer Institute, the safe schools center provided a presentation to 23 educators on child exploitation and human trafficking. It received positive reviews and 100% of those that attended the session would recommend it to others.
- During the Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools Conference, OPI and MT Safe Schools Center partnered on a presentation about child exploitation and human trafficking. There were about 30 attendees including school personnel and law enforcement officials.

[Montana School Guidelines for the Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect 2025 - 2026](#)

- Developed by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

[NetSmartz Workshop](#)

- This interactive, educational program from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, provides age-appropriate resources to teach children how to be safer on and offline. It's designed for kids age 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement and entertains while it educates with videos, games, activity cards, and presentation.

[Know2protect](#)

- The Department of Homeland Security's website for online child exploitation. This site has information on what the problem is, how to take action, training, resources and how to report online child exploitation.

[Educate Empower Kids](#)

- This provides great resources specifically for parents to use to help children stay safe while online.

[Take It Down](#)

- This service helps anyone remove online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit content that were taken as a minor.

[White Ribbon Week](#)

- This research-based, positive school climate program helps kids make healthy choices in media and technology. Daily, kids learn a new principle of online

behavior reinforced through discussion and fun activities. Volunteers or teachers can present this program.

[Stand Week](#)

- Media Safety for youth ages 11-14 year old (developed for middle school students).

[Human Trafficking in America's Schools](#)

- A pioneering guide funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students, it helps school officials understand how human trafficking impacts schools, recognize the indicators of possible child trafficking, and develop policies, protocols, and partnerships to address and prevent the exploitation of children.

[Addressing the Growing Problem of Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors through PBIS:](#)

- This practice brief suggests a framework for integrating school-based prevention and intervention strategies through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). It complements the above report.

[Polaris Project](#)

- Polaris is a U.S. nonprofit anti-human-trafficking organization working to combat and prevent both sex and labor trafficking. Polaris offers online training programs and provides “tools for educators” documents, designed to help school staff identify risk factors or red flags among students that might indicate possible trafficking involvement.
- [Polaris Project Protocol Flow Chart](#)
- [How to Recognize the Signs of Human Trafficking](#)
- [The Facts Around Sex Trafficking](#)

Curriculum Resources

Enlightened Course

- Developed by the Montana Department of Justice in partnership with local trafficking organizations to discuss how this affects our local communities. It contains a long video, a shortened video, and an in-class discussion sheet. The goal of the presentation is to further the understanding and knowledge of human trafficking, exploitation, sextortion, and media competency.
 - [Enlighten Video, Short-form](#)
 - [Enlightened Video Long-form](#)
 - [Enlightened Teaching Guide](#)

[National Educators to Stop Trafficking \(NEST\)](#)

- Provides age-appropriate curriculum and resources to educate and empower youth, teaching them how to avoid being trafficked, stand up for victims of

trafficking, and spread the word in their communities to end sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The LifeLine Project

- Every 34 seconds, another teenager enters a life of exploitation. This 45-60 minute whole sensory experience encourages students to be the difference makers in their friends and classmates' lives, while breaking the norm of "mind your own business".

POWER UP, SPEAK OUT!

- This five-lesson toolkit, created in Red Lodge, MT, encourages middle school students to think critically about healthy relationships, power dynamics, boundaries, and consent. Lessons teach students what to do, rather than what not to do, and resonate with youth statewide.

Teacher Learning Hub

Teacher Learning Hub provides high-quality, free, online professional development for Montana's educational professionals

Professional development is an essential part of the ongoing professional work that educators engage in to maintain licensure and to keep their skills up-to-date. Montana's geography, weather, rural nature, and the expense of professional development have been barriers to teachers who want to upskill their teaching practice.

The Learning Hub offers free online courses that allow anyone with a Hub account access to over 175 courses. Educators, administrators, support staff, and future educators can earn professional development units (PDU) for licensure renewal free of charge. A variety of courses are available to meet the diverse needs of educators in the field and to support OPI initiatives. Most of the courses on The Hub are self-paced.

The Learning Hub is currently undergoing an update and modernization. The Learning Hub's new platform is now [live](#).

Learning Hub Data Points

- In 2024 8,009 users accessed the Learning Hub.
- 2,934 users accessed The Learning Hub for the first time.
- 15 courses were opened in 2024.
- 11,538 course completions for the 24/25 school year
- Since 2017, The Learning Hub has offered over 350 online courses.

The Hub offers free Professional Development Units (PDUs) to educators to renew their licenses. Educators are required to earn 60 PDU in a 5-year period to renew their license. In 2024, The Hub issued 31,264 Professional Development Units (PDU).

- Most utilized courses:
 - Mental Health - 4996 PDU
 - ELA / Literacy 4931 PDU
 - General School Issues - 4931 PDU
 - Universal Instructional Strategies - 4645 PDU
 - Indian Education for All - 3179 PDU

Trafficking & Online Safety

- Four courses cover online safety or Human Trafficking
- Mental Health and Behavior - 1,074 (18.2% of total enrollments in 2024)

Learning Hub contact info: opilearninghub@mt.gov

Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Education

[Resources for Teaching about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Preventing Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and More Like HER Lesson Plan](#)

For questions, please contact:

- Katie Bloodgood, Deputy Chief of Staff & Policy Director, katie.bloodgood@mt.gov
- Sarah Music, Coordinated School Health Director, sarah.music@mt.gov
- Dr. Brooke Gondara, Director of Indian Education brookney.gondara@mt.gov