

Child Abduction Prevention

Instruction in how to prevent child abduction is crucial in safeguarding children. Educating students to recognize potential dangers and practice safe behaviors empowers them to make informed choices.

The State Board of Education, in coordination with the Illinois State Police, shall develop child abduction prevention instruction for inclusion in elementary and secondary school curricula throughout the State. The State Board of Education and the Illinois State Police shall encourage the inclusion of the child abduction prevention instruction in private elementary and secondary school curricula throughout the State.

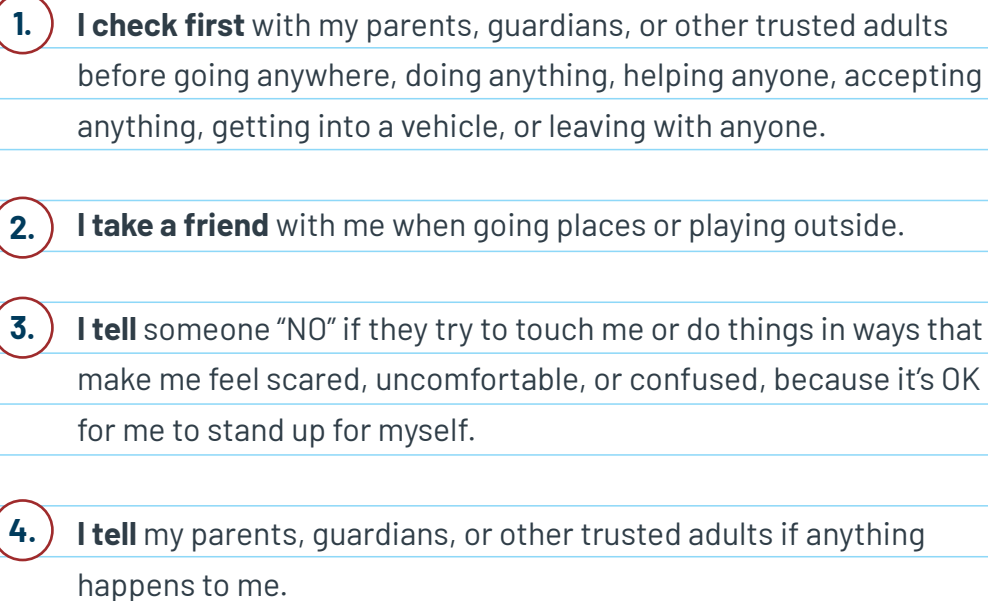
— [105 ILCS 5/2-3.140](#)

Instruction in this area is covered in the [Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health](#). Standard 24C within the Physical Development and Health Performance Descriptors states, “Students who meet the standard can demonstrate skills essential to enhancing health and avoiding dangerous situations.” In accordance with statute, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois State Police are providing these resources to schools and districts for use in child abduction prevention instruction. It is important to utilize age-appropriate resources and tools to instruct students. Please evaluate the age-appropriateness of these resources or any others that you choose prior to implementation in your district’s curriculum.



KIDSMARTZ

[KidSmartz](#) is a child safety program that educates families about preventing abduction and empowers children in Grades K-5 to practice safer behaviors. This program offers resources to help parents, caregivers, and teachers protect youngsters by teaching and practicing the 4 Rules of Personal Safety:

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- 1. I check first** with my parents, guardians, or other trusted adults before going anywhere, doing anything, helping anyone, accepting anything, getting into a vehicle, or leaving with anyone.
 - 2. I take a friend** with me when going places or playing outside.
 - 3. I tell** someone “NO” if they try to touch me or do things in ways that make me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, because it’s OK for me to stand up for myself.
 - 4. I tell** my parents, guardians, or other trusted adults if anything happens to me.

Classroom lessons, at-home lessons, parent tips, and fun printable activities are used.

[Kidsmartz Education Kit: Abduction Prevention Lesson for Grades K-2](#)

[Kidsmartz Education Kit: Abduction Prevention Lessons for Grades 3-5](#)

BLUE CAMPAIGN

[Blue Campaign](#) is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners on how to recognize [Indicators of Human Trafficking](#) and appropriately respond to possible cases.

Blue Campaign is located within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Partnership and Engagement and aligned with the [DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking](#). It works closely with DHS components to develop general [awareness trainings](#), as well as specific educational resources, to help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations.

Blue Campaign leverages partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, and state/local authorities to maximize national public engagement on anti-human trafficking efforts. Blue Campaign's educational awareness objectives consist of two foundational elements – prevention of human trafficking and protection of exploited persons.¹

1. [How to Talk to Youth About Human Trafficking: A Guide for Youth Caretakers and Individuals Working with Youth](#): This guide includes information about what human trafficking is and how to recognize it among youth.
2. [Mia's Story: Blue Campaign Youth Animated Video Series](#): This four-part animated video series, created by Blue Campaign, depicts the experience of a young girl being trafficked through the lens of different individuals in her life.
3. [Carter's Story: Blue Campaign Youth Animated Video Series](#): This two-part animated video series, created by Blue Campaign, raises awareness of how to keep young people safe while playing online video games and provide tips to parents and adults working with youth on how to recognize signs of human trafficking.

NETSMARTZ

[Netsmartz](#) is an interactive educational program from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC). The program offers age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safer online and offline. It is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. It provides age-appropriate videos and activities to teach children online safety.

The goal of these resources is to help children become more aware of potential online risks and empower them to help prevent victimization by making safer choices online and offline.

[NetSmartz: K-12 Google Slides by Topic](#)



¹See [About Blue Campaign | Homeland Security](#).

KIDS IN THE KNOW

[Kids in the Know](#) is the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection's](#) interactive safety education program designed for students from kindergarten to high school. The purpose of the program is to help educators teach children and youth effective personal safety strategies in an engaging, age-appropriate, and interactive way that builds resiliency skills and reduces their likelihood of victimization in the online and offline world.

It is based on research and evidence, balances empowerment with protection, communicates without value statements, builds from past experiences, involves activity-based learning, and facilitates important discussions about personal safety without the use of fear.

[The Changing Face of Safety Education](#) (PK-6)

[Kids in the Know 7 Root Safety Strategies](#) (PK-9)

[Kids in the Know 4 Root Safety Environments](#) (PK-9)

[Billie Brings His Buddies](#) (Grade 1)

[If Asked to Go](#) (Grade 5)

PROJECT STARFISH

[Project STARFISH](#) has materials and lesson plans to introduce and discuss the issue of sex trafficking to students in middle and high school. Each plan includes all the information and activities needed to bring this topic into the classroom.

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

One of the goals of the Illinois State Police is to **"improve the quality of life for our citizens through unimpeachable integrity, public service, training and education."**

The Illinois State Police Safety Education Unit helps fulfill that goal by offering a wide range of programs to civic groups, social clubs, schools, community organizations, and others.²

Please email the Safety Education Unit at [ISP. Safety.Education@illinois.gov](mailto:Safety.Education@illinois.gov) or fill out the [ISP Safety Education Request Form](#) to schedule a safety presentation or program.



²See [ISP Safety Education](#).

Here are some additional guidelines that can be shared with students, parents, and school staff in an effort to prevent child abduction:

Student Education

Rethink “Stranger Danger”: “Stranger danger” ignores the fact that most children are abducted by someone they know. Avoiding strangers will not help if the abductor is a family member, neighbor, or family acquaintance. When you talk to your children about abduction prevention, do not focus on warning them about certain types of people. Instead, teach them to identify and respond to threatening situations.

Safe Adults: Ensure children understand who is a “safe adult” (parents, teachers, trusted family members) and the importance of recognizing this distinction.

Safe Words: Encourage families to establish a “safe word” that must be used by any authorized adult who picks up a child. If the adult does not know the safe word, the child should not go with them.

Staff Training and Awareness

Identify Risks: Ensure all staff members (teachers, janitors, bus drivers, etc.) are trained to recognize potential abduction risks, such as unfamiliar individuals on school grounds or unusual behaviors.

Background Checks: Conduct thorough background checks on all employees, volunteers, and visitors who interact with students.

Visitor Protocols: Require visitors to sign in, wear a badge, and be always escorted by a staff member.

Pickup Procedures

Authorized Pickup List: Create a system where parents or guardians must provide a list of individuals authorized to pick up their child. Any change should require written notification from the parents.

ID Verification: Always verify the identity of any person picking up a child by asking for a photo ID if they are unfamiliar or not on the approved list.

Walk-Through Procedures: Establish clear pickup zones where parents or authorized caregivers can meet children. Avoid allowing children to leave school premises unsupervised.

Technology and Communication

Alert Systems: Utilize school apps or communication platforms to send alerts to parents and guardians if there is any emergency or potential threat.

Social Media Awareness: Teach students and parents about the potential dangers of oversharing information on social media, such as posting pictures or details about a child’s location.

Community Involvement

Local Law Enforcement Collaboration: Foster good relationships with local law enforcement and invite them to participate in school safety programs, including giving presentations to staff and students about abduction prevention.

Parental Engagement: Hold regular meetings or workshops for parents to discuss child safety and prevention measures.