



**Yolo County Board of Education and
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

**Resolution #23/24-24
Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January 2024)**

WHEREAS, January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, a month designed to raise awareness about human trafficking issues and to support survivors; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation of children is defined as any sexual activity involving a child in exchange of something of value, promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth affects communities at worldwide, national and local levels; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the California Child Welfare Council reports that the fast-growing criminal industry of commercial sexual exploitation affects 100,000-300,000 children a year nationally, with 11-14 being the most common ages of victims coerced into the industry; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of available data on the impact of commercial sexual exploitation in Yolo County but yet even one case of youth victimization is one too many;

WHEREAS, no community, school, socioeconomic group, or student demographic is immune as cases of child trafficking are found in all communities alike; and

WHEREAS, many underage victims of human trafficking are often students in the school system; and

WHEREAS, schools can and should be safe places for students, and even more so for students whose lives are otherwise characterized by instability and lack of safety and security; and

WHEREAS, exploited children endure complex trauma that negatively affects psychosocial development, physical health, and academic engagement, which may manifest in chronic absenteeism, low academic performance, and increase the probability of school dropout; and

WHEREAS, particularly vulnerable students disproportionately represented as a sexually exploited youth are often homeless, in the foster youth system, African American, LGBTQ,

unaccompanied minors, migrant or seasonal workers, possess special education needs, and/or have had contact with the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, everyone who is part of the school community—administrators, school counselors, nurses, other mental health professionals, teachers, bus drivers, maintenance personnel, food service staff, resource officers, and other school community members—has the potential to be an advocate for children who have been exploited; and

WHEREAS, YCOE works with community partners, such as Empower Yolo, to provide education on the availability of services and resources available to survivors and the wider community in general; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools stand in solidarity with staff, partners, community members, and all local agencies working to eliminate and address the commercial sexual exploitation crisis that exists in Yolo County and our Sacramento region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Office of Education is committed to equipping local school districts and educational leaders with the resources to have an authentic dialogue around the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in Yolo County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools at a meeting held on December 12, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Esquivel, Moreno, Salud Ambriz, Yip, Zendejas


NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Tico Zendejas, President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis
County Superintendent of Schools