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 Commissioner's Office
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education.vermont.gov

Department for Children and Families
 Commissioner's Office
 5 North, 103 South Main Street
 Waterbury, VT 05671-5920
 (802) 241-1942
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November 1, 2010

Dear Principal,

As stated in our letter shared through the weekly Field Memo in June, we are sending you the enclosed materials to support your ability to implement the legislative requirements of Act One.

These materials specifically address sections 3 and 9, which require schools to educate both children and employees about child sexual abuse. The Department of Education (DOE) and the Department for Children and Families (DCF) have worked with a group of community stakeholders (specified in Act One) to create these materials. The following charts outline what is required of schools, what is required of DOE and DCF, what materials are enclosed and the support you can expect to receive.

Section 3: Educating children about sexual abuse and sexual violence.

REQUIRED OF SCHOOLS	REQUIRED OF DOE AND DCF
Requires Vermont schools to include instruction about how to recognize and prevent sexual abuse and sexual violence in comprehensive health education.	Requires DOE and DCF to convene a working group to prepare technical assistance materials to help school districts and supervisory unions create and implement developmentally-appropriate instructional programs.
Effective: July 1, 2011.	<p>The working group has developed a Technical Assistance Guide (TARG) to help schools meet this mandate. It provides best practice recommendations for school-wide, community approach to prevention. Access the TARG on the DOE's Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_health_ed.html#targ</p> <p>An informational TARG rack card is part of this packet.</p> <p>Contact: Donna McAllister, DOE, at (802) 828-1636 or Donna.McAllister@state.vt.us.</p>

Section 9: Educating staff and volunteers about child sexual abuse.

REQUIRED OF SCHOOLS	REQUIRED OF DOE AND DCF
<p>Requires school boards to ensure that adults employed in schools in their districts receive orientation on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child sexual abuse and sexual violence.</p> <p>It also requires school boards to provide opportunities for parents, guardians, and other interested persons to receive the same information.</p> <p>Effective: July 1, 2011.</p> <p>Schools can also refer parents to a new DCF prevention Web site: protectkids.vt.gov.</p>	<p>Requires DOE and DCF (AHS) to provide materials and technical support to school boards.</p> <p>In this packet you are being provided a DVD of the Vermont Edition of the Canadian Center for Child Protection’s <i>Commit to Kids</i> program —this program helps child-serving organizations create safe environments for children. The program includes a workbook, training video and reproducible forms. Chapter 2 of the workbook, along with the training video, provides a detailed orientation to child sexual abuse, while chapters 3 through 8 will help schools move beyond awareness to organizational change that helps keep children safe. Chapter 7 includes information about reporting child abuse in Vermont and should be included in employee orientation. Additional in-person mandatory reporter training is available through local DCF, Family Services District Offices: dcf.vermont.gov/fsd/contact_us.</p> <p>DCF has provided mandated reporting brochures, prevention rack cards, posters and parents guide that you can use to educate parents and other adults. To order these materials or request technical assistance to implement the <i>Commit to Kids</i> program contact: Priscilla White, DCF, at (802) 241-1942 or Priscilla.White@ahs.state.vt.us.</p>

Please make sure the appropriate personnel are aware of these materials and that your school is “stepping up” to prevent child sexual abuse. If you would like more information about *Act One*, you can view it online at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/Acts/ACT001.pdf>.

Thank you for the work you do with Vermont’s children.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Dale, Commissioner
Department for Children



Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Department of Education

Enclosures: TARG Rack Card, Commit to Kids DVD, Mandated Reporting Brochure, Prevention Rack Card, Poster and Parent Guide