



# School Personnel Talking Points



## WHAT IS PROJECT LIVE?

**Project LIVE (Love, Inclusivity, Values & Education)** is an exciting project starting in Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS). We need **your help** for it to be successful in **making DMPS a safer place for students!**

### How can you help?

- Be knowledgeable about the project and prepared to answer students' and parents' questions.
- Talk positively and passionately about the project.
- Encourage youth to engage when receiving the READY to Stand Curriculum™ and provide honest, complete answers when filling out surveys.

## STUDENT QUESTIONS

### What is this project about?

- Project LIVE is evaluating a school-based sex trafficking prevention program, with the ultimate goal to help youth have happy and healthy futures. To create and revise the program, Project LIVE needs input from students to ensure it is as effective as possible.

### Why is the project important?

- For the first time in DMPS history, students' voices will be taking the lead in creating a sex trafficking prevention program to make their school and community a safer place to live.
- Students and school personnel will gain skills to talk about, recognize and respond to sex trafficking.
- Students will build self-confidence and learn more about intrinsic value, valuing of others and help youth reduce risky behaviors.

### Do I need parental/guardian permission to participate?

- Yes! If you are under age 18, your parent/guardian must complete a consent form giving you permission to participate. Please visit our website or contact **Aleesa Nutting (515-410-6536)** to obtain the consent form!
- A parent/guardian of a student under 18 will receive a **\$15 virtual Visa gift card** (within 4 weeks) for a returned consent form (whether or not permission is granted to participate).

### Why do they want us to take surveys?

- The information will help researchers create the best version of the prevention program based on student input.
- To make sure Project LIVE is making DMPS students more knowledgeable about sex trafficking and how to reduce/respond to it.
- The surveys are **anonymous** and **confidential**.

## IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US:

**Website:** [go.unl.edu/projectlive](https://go.unl.edu/projectlive) **Email:** [ProjectLIVE@unl.edu](mailto:ProjectLIVE@unl.edu) **Phone:** 515-410-6536   [@unl.projectLIVE](https://www.instagram.com/unl.projectLIVE)



## PARENT/GUARDIAN QUESTIONS

### What is this project about?

- Together students, DMPS school personnel, community stakeholders, parents and the Project LIVE team are creating a school-based sex trafficking prevention program in our community to help youth be successful, safe and happy.

### Why is this project important? It:

- Teaches youth to **recognize sex trafficking**.
- Develops youths' **ability to respond to unsafe situations and increase trust in reporting these to trusted adults**.
- Gets youth **involved** in their community, builds **self-confidence and life skills**.

### What does Project LIVE involve?

- Students and school personnel will receive the READY to Stand Curriculum™. For students, the curriculum will be presented in six 45-minute during their P.E. or health class. Students will also be asked to take a pre/post survey, and brief feedback surveys following each module. School personnel will participate in one 2-hour program.

### Do parents/guardians need to give permission for their youth(s) to participate?

- Yes! If a youth is under age 18, a parental/guardian consent form must be completed in order for a youth to participate. Please visit our website or contact **Aleesa Nutting (515-410-6536)** to obtain the consent form.
- A parent/guardian of a student under 18 will receive a **\$15 virtual Visa gift card** (within 4 weeks) for a returned consent form (whether or not permission is granted to participate).

### How will we know the program is working?

**The surveys help us understand whether the program is working, and which parts are working the best. The surveys:**

- Are **voluntary**; parents must give permission and youth must also **choose** whether or not they want to be part of the study.
- Will be **anonymous**; researchers will never see the names of youth together with their answers.
- Will **provide important information** to help create a program that helps DMPS youth for years to come.
- **Do not cause emotional harm** or impact youth's likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors.
- Will **give information back to schools** to support positive futures for students.

## SCHOOL PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

### Why should school personnel invest their time?

- To make a difference in the lives of youth and help DMPS become a safer place for students.
- To serve as experts in how to connect with and educate DMPS students about sex trafficking prevention.
- To help youth build self-confidence and self-empowerment in order to reduce risky behaviors and have healthy and happy futures.

### Why do I do if a student discloses sex trafficking victimization?

- **Do not:** display shock, skepticism or suggest the youth might be mistaken.
- **Do not:** ask questions, that is not your role.
- **Do:** thank the youth for having the courage to come to you.
- **Do:** use body language that shows you care (sit, kneel) and use reflective listening (by nodding, paraphrasing, rephrasing).
- **Do:** describe and remind them that you are a mandated reporter.
- **Do:** contact the school point person and invite the student to go with you.
- **Do:** review the Project LIVE "Protocol for Working with Youth Disclosures" (see our website) for additional guidance.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### Who is part of Project LIVE?

- Project LIVE is a collaboration between DMPS and The Set Me Free Project™, a local non-profit experienced in providing school and community-based, prevention programming related to sex trafficking. The READY to Stand Curriculum™ was originally developed by The Set Me Free Project™ and has already been delivered to over 400 schools and community settings. Project LIVE is allowing us to **evaluate the effectiveness** of the READY to Stand Curriculum™, which has never been done before! Researchers at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are also working on the project. Most importantly, Project LIVE is meant for **you** and **our** community. Contact the Project LIVE team to find out how you can join!

### Where can I see the project materials that my student will be given?

- You can view everything on the Project LIVE website—consent forms, project handouts, etc. are all located on our website: [go.unl.edu/projectlive](https://go.unl.edu/projectlive).

### What grades are the READY to Stand Curriculum™ being implemented in?

- The READY to Stand Curriculum™ and surveys will be given to students in grades 9-12 and will be repeated at all DMPS high schools over a 4-year period.

### When will the surveys be taken in school?

- The surveys will be presented to students during their scheduled P.E. or health class.

### Where do I go if I want to know more?

- Get in touch with the Project LIVE team at: [go.unl.edu/projectlive](https://go.unl.edu/projectlive). For further questions, please contact the principal investigator, Dr. Katie Edwards: [katie.edwards@unl.edu](mailto:katie.edwards@unl.edu).

## ARE YOU CONCERNED A CHILD IS BEING SEXUALLY EXPLOITED?

Contact **Jennifer Stalder** ([jennifer.stalder@dmschools.org](mailto:jennifer.stalder@dmschools.org) | 515-306-6826) and **Stacie Nessa** ([stacie.nessa@dmschools.org](mailto:stacie.nessa@dmschools.org) | 515-778-1972). They will prioritize getting back to you ASAP. They will set up a time to discuss the student within 24 hours, review documentation, and/or setup a documentation plan and determine if the following agencies need to be contacted:

- **Child Abuse Hotline (DHS): 1-800-362-2178**
- **Local Law Enforcement Agency**
- **The National Human Trafficking Resources Hotline (NHTRC): 1-888-373-7888**

**Disclaimer:** *This protocol does not substitute for internal or mandated reporting requirement and does not guarantee safety. For emergencies, please act accordingly and call 9-1-1.*