

# Study Results Show the Evidence-Based Effectiveness of *Protect Our Students*

## Who is using the *Protect Our Students* training?

Fourteen school districts and eight charter schools with over **24,000 NC school employees** completed *Protect Our Students* during the 2020-2021 school year. These school employees work with over **220,000 students** in the state.



## How did participants rate the training?<sup>1</sup>

- **87%** were **INSPIRED** to take a more active role in child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention and response on their campus.
- **94%** found the content to be **RELEVANT** to the issues and concerns that NC staff face regarding CSA.
- **95%** said the training provided them with **PRACTICAL** information that made them better prepared to identify and respond to CSA and trafficking related concerns or situations that they might encounter.
- **90%** felt the amount of information included in the training was **NECESSARY** and **MANAGEABLE**.
- **86%** found *Protect Our Students* to be as or more **ENGAGING** than similar trainings.
- **94%** found the navigation tools to be **CLEAR** and **EASY TO OPERATE**.
- **94%** felt the module **FUNCTIONED PROPERLY** without any technical difficulties.

## What are district leaders saying about using *Protect Our Students*?<sup>2</sup>

- **100%** **WOULD RECOMMEND PROTECT OUR STUDENTS** to other districts.
- **100%** indicated the training content was **RELEVANT, MANAGEABLE, ENGAGING, and USER-FRIENDLY**.
- **100%** satisfied with the **LEVEL OF SUPPORT** that they and their staff received from AbolitionNC.
- **100%** thought the **MODULE FUNCTIONED PROPERLY** with minimal technical issues.



## Are staff prepared to identify and respond to CSA and trafficking after *Protect Our Students*?<sup>1</sup>



### **97% FEEL INFORMED ON THE ISSUE OF CSA**

Study results show that 97% of staff feel informed regarding child sexual abuse after the training versus 46% before. Additionally, 95% of staff feel informed about child sex trafficking after the training versus 31% before.



### **88% FEEL PREPARED TO IDENTIFY WARNING SIGNS**

As a result of the training, 88% of staff feel equipped to identify the signs of sexually abused juveniles versus 26% before. Also, 87% of staff feel prepared to identify the signs of trafficking juveniles versus 18% before.



### **92% FEEL EQUIPPED TO FOLLOW NC REPORTING LAWS**

Upon completion, 92% of staff feel equipped to follow NC mandatory reporting laws for reporting to police and DSS. Prior to the training, only 34% felt equipped to report to police and 35% to report to DSS. Additionally, 91% of staff feel prepared to assist a child who disclosed abuse or trafficking after the training versus 32% before.



### **TOTAL ASSESSMENT SCORES IMPROVED BY 22%**

(when comparing pre-training to post-training responses for knowledge evaluation questions)

# 1,264 TAKING ACTION

**843**

SCHOOL  
REPORTS

**224**

POLICE  
REPORTS

**303**

DSS  
REPORTS

**927**

WATCH FOR  
SIGNS / SPEAK  
TO CHILD

**85**

TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE  
CONTACTS

**74**

CYBERTIP  
CONTACTS

**150**

CHILDHELP  
CONTACTS

**117**

SAY SOMETHING  
HOTLINE  
CONTACTS

Post-training survey respondents indicated they planned to take these actions after the training as it related to a specific child or situation that came to mind during the training.<sup>1</sup>

**Do the study results support the use of the training as a trauma-informed resource?<sup>1</sup>**



**YES.** After completing the training, 92% of participants with a prior history of sexual abuse responded that the training was a positive or necessary experience; including participants who felt the training was a neutral experience increased it to 97%. In comparison, 91% of those with no prior sexual abuse felt the training was a positive or necessary experience; counting those who felt the training was a neutral experience increased it to 98%.

**FULL STUDY RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AT [FREEWAYNC.ORG](https://www.freewaync.org) WHEN AVAILABLE.**

1. Results based on evaluating 14,066 pre-training and 12,075 post-training surveys received during the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Results based on evaluating district leader surveys from seven of the 14 participating NC districts. Two districts did not receive a survey as a result of completing the training late in the 2020-2021 school year.