

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AG Balderas Announces Back to School Human Trafficking Awareness Training Aimed at Providing Educators with the Tools to Save Lives**

*Albuquerque, NM* – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas, in partnership with education leaders from around the state, announced training dates for the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office’s Back to School Human Trafficking Awareness and Incident Tool Response Training for School Personnel. This training will help educators identify signs of possible human trafficking, and provide recommendations for how to respond to concerns about potential human trafficking cases.

“We have seen proof that this training works,” said Attorney General Hector Balderas. “It has saved lives, and with the support of our partners in education from around New Mexico, it will continue to do so. We are excited to present this vital training opportunity to the people closest to New Mexican children.”

Partnering with the Attorney General’s Office on this training are Albuquerque Public Schools, Las Cruces Public Schools, Santa Fe Public Schools, the American Teachers Federation – New Mexico, and the National Education Association – New Mexico.

“The rise of human trafficking is alarming and I applaud Attorney General Balderas for proactively bringing this training directly to school districts,” said Santa Fe Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Veronica Garcia. “This training is critical for all personnel who work with children in preventing abuse.”

“Our number one priority is providing the students of Albuquerque Public Schools with a safe, productive place to learn,” said Albuquerque Public School Superintendent Raquel Reedy. “This training will prepare our teachers and staff with the education they need to do their part to keep our children safe.”

"There is no question this training will have a positive impact - not only on our staff, but also on the students of Las Cruces Public Schools," said LCPS Superintendent Greg Ewing. "We are proud to partner with Attorney General Hector Balderas, and excited to provide this important learning opportunity to our employees. By learning to better identify the signs of abuse and human trafficking, we will be better prepared to keep the students we serve safe."

“AFT New Mexico is proud to partner with AG Hector Balderas to provide and expand this important training to as many public educators as possible,” said AFT New Mexico President Stephanie Ly. “AG Balderas has been a national leader in combatting human trafficking, and his focus on equipping educators with the tools they need to recognize and report suspected instances of abuse or trafficking is a much needed service for the well-being of our students,

families, and communities. We thank him for recognizing that educators can play a critical role in this process.”

“Successful learning in public schools requires a safe learning environment in which each and every student can succeed,” said NEA New Mexico President, Betty Patterson. “We applaud Attorney General Balderas for helping to inform educators about how to identify dangerous conditions in our students’ lives.”

New to this year’s training is the introduction of a new, free “incident response” tool sponsored by the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. This new tool will focus on answering questions related to technology-related incidents involving children. The interactive tool helps educators understand how to respond in these situations.

This training will be offered in Albuquerque on July 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 7<sup>th</sup>; in Santa Fe on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and in Las Cruces on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

A flyer with details and links to registration is attached.

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# ATTORNEY GENERAL BALDERAS' BACK TO SCHOOL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND INCIDENT TOOL RESPONSE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

CONFRONTING THE ISSUES TO MAKE NEW MEXICO FAMILIES SAFER

This Human Trafficking training will help educators identify signs of possible human trafficking, and provide recommendations for how to respond to trafficking cases. This training will also discuss risk factors that make students susceptible to exploitation, and identifies promising practices for prevention.



The second part of this training will include the introduction of a new (free) “incident response” tool sponsored by the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The new tool will equip educators with the answers to questions like: How should you respond when a technology-related incident happens in your school? When should you involve law enforcement? This interactive Incident Investigation tool will help educators find the answers-by walking through a series of detailed questions about the incident and recommending appropriate next steps.

This is a free training. If you would like to attend, click the registration link, contact Tamarra Howard at (505)717-3506 or email [thoward@nmag.gov](mailto:thoward@nmag.gov)

ALBUQUERQUE  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
JULY 31, 2018  
AFT NEW MEXICO  
530 JEFFERSON ST. NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109

ALBUQUERQUE  
AUGUST 7, 2018  
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
CONVENTION CENTER  
401 2nd STREET NW  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

SANTA FE  
AUGUST 9, 2018  
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
NEA HEADQUARTERS  
2007 BOTULPH ROAD  
SANTA FE, NM 87508

LAS CRUCES  
AUGUST 10, 2018  
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
OÑATE HIGH SCHOOL  
5700 MESA GRANDE DR.  
LAS CRUCES, NM 88011

REGISTRATION LINK 07/31/2018:

ABQ

REGISTRATION LINK 08/07/2018:

ABQ

REGISTRATION LINK 08/09/2018:

SANTA FE

REGISTRATION LINK 08/10/2018:

LAS CRUCES