

# CSEC Indicators

Frequently AWOL, sneaking out, unable or unwilling to provide home address

Romantic involvement with older teens or adults, or gang affiliation

Tattoos (branding) \$\$\$, "loyalty," a crown, "daddy," pimp name, gang name/sign

Chronically tardy or truant, sudden decline in grades, falling asleep in class, inability to concentrate

Atypical promiscuity, sexually provocative clothing or clothing unfit for weather conditions

Excess amounts of cash, pre-paid credit cards, hotel key cards, condoms, lubricant

Multiple cell phones, material possessions youth cannot afford, elaborate acrylic nails, fake ID

Change in demeanor or behavior, hypo/hyper-arousal, withdrawal from friends and family

Gives scripted or defensive answers, especially regarding their "boyfriend"

Taking/sending provocative photos or visiting websites known for selling sex

Multiple visits to the ER, STIs, bladder infections, pregnancies, or terminated pregnancies

Use of lingo from "the life" (Daddy, Wifey, King, Trick/Date, Stable, Quota, Blade, Izm)

"PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP  
SOMETIMES LOOK A LOT LIKE  
PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT HELP."



# Trauma-Informed Engagement

- Hungry? Thirsty? Cold? Tired? Meet basic needs first.
- Have patience while building rapport. It takes time and consistency to show you can be trusted.
- Take every opportunity to build youth up to help build their self esteem.
- Listen without judgment.
- Help decrease their vulnerability by providing resources.
- Avoid making promises.
- Only ask for necessary details to prevent causing more trauma.
- Be aware of your tone, facial expressions and body language.
- Spend time getting to know them. Hopes? Dreams? Hobbies? Interests?
- Be a reason youth want to come to school. "I'm so happy you're here."
- Use supportive language that reaffirms they're safe, not to blame & that you care about them and believe in them.
- Be consistent with your expectations, boundaries, and communication.
- Respect their physical boundaries.
- Hold youth accountable while still expressing empathy & compassion.
- Focus on their strengths to create an environment that emphasizes positive change. Help youth construct a vision of their desired future.
- Set realistic & achievable goals WITH the youth.
- Redefine success for each child.
- Praise even the smallest of successes.
- View adverse behavior through a trauma-informed lens. "Bad" behavior is usually a manifestation of trauma. Be proactive, not reactive.
- The smallest moments can have the largest impact- give a hug, show them that you care.