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TEXAS

2021 Report Card on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

TIER I

Issue	Grade	Score	Highlights
 1. Criminal Provisions	A	17 17.5	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to buyer accountability under the trafficking law, buyer and trafficker accountability under state CSEC laws, mistake of age defenses, decoy defenses, and financial penalties. Gap remains related to business entity liability under the trafficking law.
 2. Identification of and Response to Victims	F	9.5 27.5	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to screening through child welfare and the juvenile justice system and child abuse definitions. Gaps remain in areas related to third party control, foreign national victims, non-criminalization for prostitution offenses, expanded non-criminalization, juvenile court jurisdiction, and non-familial trafficking cases.
 3. Continuum of Care	B	12 15	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to services through a non-punitive system and the juvenile justice system as well as appropriations. Gaps remain in areas related to MDT responses and extended foster care services.
 4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	B	12.5 15	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to civil orders of protection, restitution, and civil remedies. Gaps remain in areas related to crime victims' compensation, vacatur, and statutes of limitation.
 5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	D	6 10	Gaps remain in all areas, including hearsay exceptions, alternatives to live, in-court testimony, victim supports, and privileged communications.
 6. Prevention and Training	D	10 15	Policy goals accomplished in areas related to training for child welfare and school personnel. Gaps remain in areas related to training for juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, and prosecutors as well as prevention education in schools.
EXTRA CREDIT	 Youth	1	Protection related to civil remedies is extended to sex trafficked youth.
	 Child Labor Trafficking	4	Protections related to child abuse definitions, civil orders of protection, restitution, and civil remedies are extended to child labor trafficking victims.

OVERALL GRADE
TIER I

C 72

LEARN MORE

TOOLKIT: To see how Texas compares, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/toolkit.

ISSUE BRIEFS: To better understand a policy goal, visit reportcards.sharedhope.org/issue-briefs.

TEXAS SPECIFIC RESOURCES

To better understand Texas's grade, access an in-depth analysis of its laws under the advanced legislative framework and review its historical progress by visiting reportcards.sharedhope.org/texas.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For legislators and partner non-profits that assist elected officials in creating legislation, request a consultation with our Policy Team online at sharedhope.org/legislative-technical-assistance. We will set up a meeting to discuss your legislative goals and create a customized goal for ongoing technical assistance, bill drafting services, and legislative support.