



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

Dear Oklahoma Colleague,

Did you know one in three girls and one in five boys are abused in Oklahoma County before the age of 18? Child abuse is an epidemic in Oklahoma. But together, we can combat this devastating statistic and create meaningful change.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education and The CARE Center, a nonprofit committed to helping and educating children, have partnered to ensure you receive the training you need to keep children safe from abuse. As school personnel, you are often the only safe adults in students' lives, and because students trust you, they are more likely to disclose their abuse to you. Because of your unique role in the lives of students, we have developed two free curriculums for adults and children to help guide sensitive conversations.

Our curriculum, *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect*, makes it easy to understand the signs, symptoms, and risk factors of child abuse and how to appropriately handle and report disclosures of abuse. This CEU-qualified, 60-minute session is required for all state schools and teachers by the State of Oklahoma. Our fun, interactive, child-centered program, called *ROAR!*, teaches children ages 4-8 body safety and empowers them to raise their voices to speak out against abuse. Both resources are free and can be given in person by appointment or through our online modules.

Please engage your community and join our mission to end child abuse in Oklahoma by scheduling a free training at your school. We look forward to partnering with you.

Thank you,

Joy Hofmeister
Oklahoma State Superintendent

Stacy McNeiland
CEO, The CARE Center