



**H**earts  
**E**ncouraging  
**R**espect  
**O**ptimism  
**E**nthusiasm  
**S**elf-confidence

# Overview

The LISD **HEROES** program is a one-to-one school-based program which matches a caring adult willing to spend thirty minutes a week with an a LISD student.



## **HEROES** Purpose...



*...to provide role models who have a **H**eat for **E**ncouraging, **R**espect, **O**ptimism, **E**nthusiasm and **S**elf-confidence with our students while providing guidance and support to cultivate personal, social and academic development.*

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## Why students may need a hero:

- failing grades
- poor attendance
- social skills/peer relationships
- character development
- adjusting to new environment
- improving self-esteem
- peer pressure
- relationships with adults and peers
- making positive choices
- attendance



## *Qualities of HEROES Mentor:*

### Time to Reflect

Who was a mentor for you?

Why was that person important and how did they impact your life?

What qualities made him/her so valued?



- *Positive and optimistic*
- *Non-judgmental and patient*
- *Good sense of humor*
- *Reinforces student's successes*
- *Personal commitment to be involved with another person for an extended period*
- *Respect for individuals, their abilities and their right to make their own choices in life*
- *Ability to listen more than talk and accept different points of view*
- *Ability to see solutions, opportunities, and barriers*
- *Flexibility and openness*
- *Honesty*

# Phase One

## Developing Rapport and Building Trust



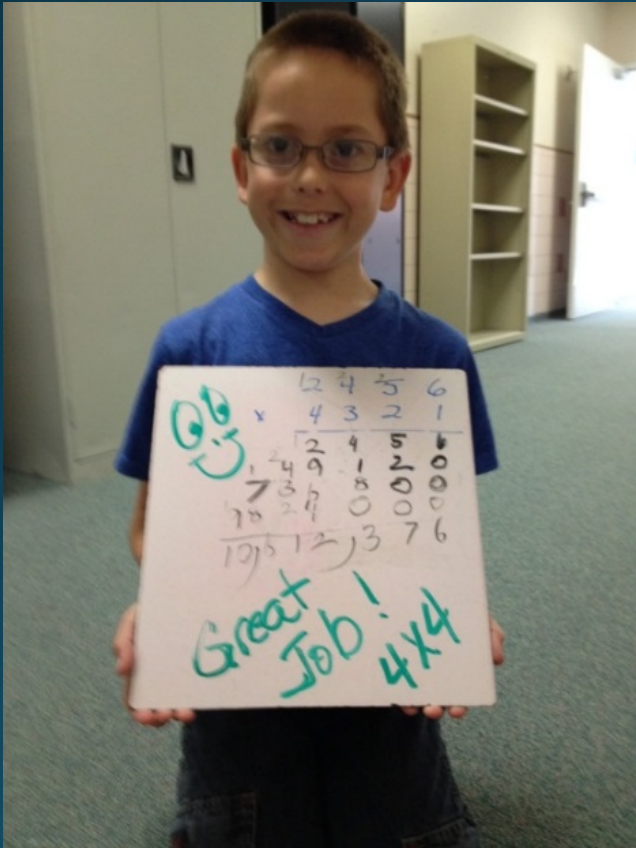
- Learning to Communicate
- Testing Boundaries
- Establishing Confidentiality
- Planning Meetings

*The “getting to know you” phase is the most critical stage of the relationship and may take weeks or even months...*

# Phase Two



## Setting and Reaching Goals



- Setting Goals
- Choosing Activities
- Celebrating Accomplishments

*What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.*

*~Zig Ziglar*

# Phase Three

## Navigating Rough Spots



- Know your limits
- Teach them to solving problems vs. giving advice
- Remain committed and seek outside support as needed

*I've learned that people will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did, but people will never  
forget how you made them feel. ~Maya Angelou*

# *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*

**FERPA** - Protects the privacy of student records.

Examples: discipline reports, attendance records, test scores, written student statements, grades, transcripts, meeting notes, SpEd/504 records, etc.



*We must be diligent in not disclosing protected information to those who do not have the right to access that information.*



Refer to LISD's Student and Parent handbook for more information.



# Child Abuse and Neglect

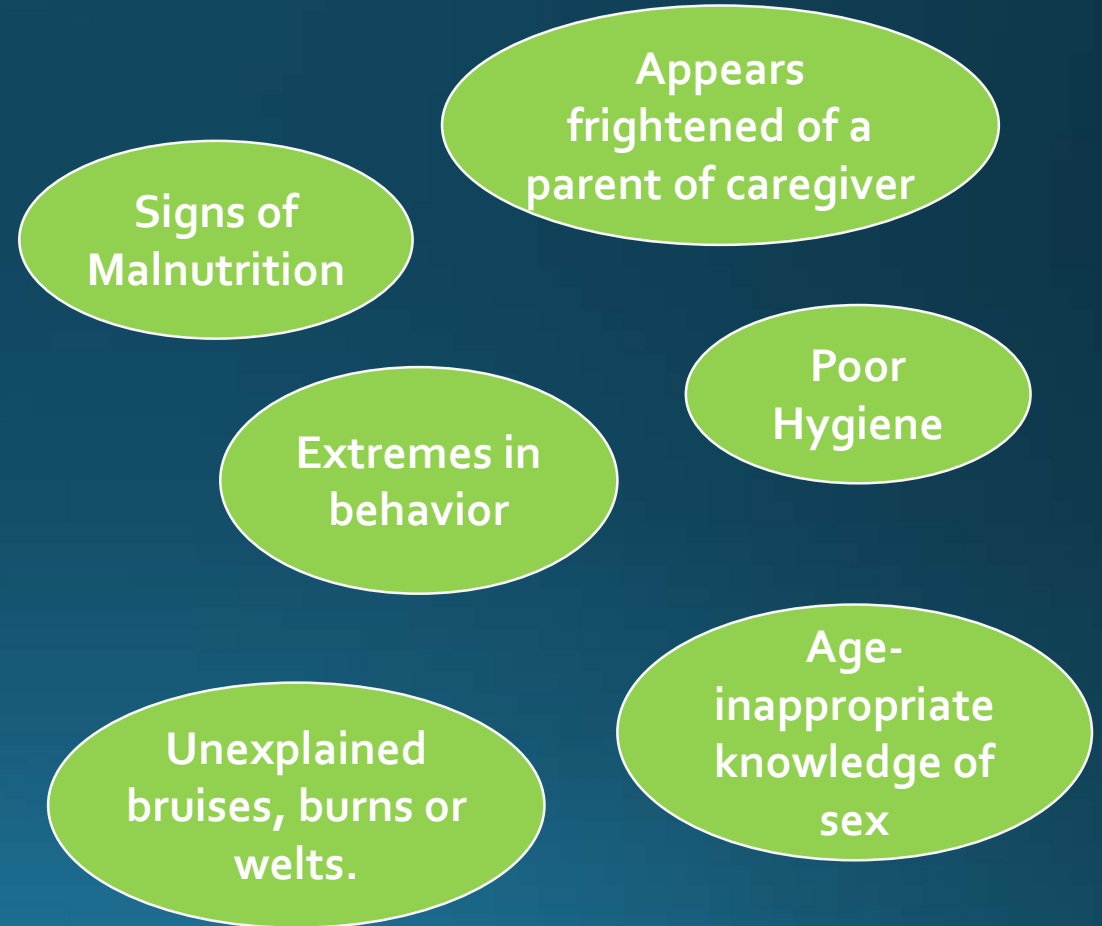
**NEGLECT** is failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

**PHYSICAL ABUSE** is physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or otherwise harming a child.

**SEXUAL ABUSE** is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation through prostitution for the production of pornographic materials.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE** is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

## Maltreatments and Symptoms



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## *Reporting Child Abuse* ...is your responsibility

According to the Texas Family Code, Chapter 261, anyone having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect **MUST** report the case immediately (within 48 hours) to a state or local law enforcement agency or the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS). **If you think a child is being mistreated, take immediate action.**



**It is your legal obligation** to report child abuse to the DFPS. Reporting suspected child abuse to your principal, school counselor or superintendent will NOT satisfy your obligation under this law. Your report of child abuse or neglect is confidential and immune from civil or criminal liability as long as the report is made in "good faith" and "without malice."

**»» DFPS has a toll-free, 24-hour Family Violence Hotline: 1-800-252-5400.**

# Phase Four

## Closing the Relationship



- Communication, communication, communication!
- Ending positively will effect the value of their experience.
- Be honest, candid and supportive.
- Don't make promises, you may not keep.

*Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.*

*~Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## **HEROES** *Guidelines*

- Sign in and out at front office
- 30-minute weekly meetings and locations
- Discipline
- Incentives
- Confidentiality

### *Support*

- District Mentor Coordinator | Shannon Lombardo - Director, Community Services  
[shannon.lombardo@leanderisd.org](mailto:shannon.lombardo@leanderisd.org) | 512-570-0029
- Networking opportunities/mentor trainings scheduled throughout the year.

### *Next Steps...*

Complete and sign the HEROES Mentor Information > Referral process > Timeline

*The Leander ISD Board of Trustees and  
Administration sincerely appreciate  
your willingness to give of your time for  
the students of LISD.*

*Thank you for becoming a HERO!*