FOCUSING ON CHILDREN UNDER STRESS

Presentation Files:  www.tinyurl.com/StanFOCUS

for more information visit focuscalifornia.org
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are there any costs associated with participating in the program?
A: This is not cost to participate

Q: Will confidential information be released?
A: No, the only information obtained and released is the child’s name, date of birth and school. No confidential information about the incident is provided.

Q: What is the age limit?
A: All school-aged children, preschool through 12th grade.

Q: Are FOCUS Notifications still provided during the summer?
A: Yes

Q: Who can submit a referral?
A: First responders (including, but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical responders and emergency room personnel) and ANY mandated reporter

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is parental consent necessary for a referral to be completed?
A: No

Q: What is the criteria for a FOCUS Notification to be generated?
A: Any situation where a child may have been exposed to a stressful event.

Q: Is there a policy or procedures for the program?
A: No there is not. A referral should be submitted at the discretion of the first responder, with no guidelines.

Q: Is trauma informed training provided by the program?
A: No. Although we highly encourage ALL participating agencies first responders and educators) to provide this for the staff, at all levels.
Incident Date/Time: ____________________ Referring Agency: ____________________

Officer Name: ____________________ Case Number: ____________________

Child’s Name: ____________________ DOB: _______ School: ____________________

Child’s Name: ____________________ DOB: _______ School: ____________________

☐ Summer School

The child/children referenced above may have been exposed to a traumatic event in the last 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays). He/she could exhibit academic, emotional and/or behavioral problems as a result of this exposure. Please handle him/her with care.

For more information go to www.focuscalifornia.org or call (209) 558-6300

** Referring agency please email form to: FOCUS@stanislaussheriff.com

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To: ____________________
(Teacher)

From: ____________________
(Principal / Counselor)

Student: ____________________

Incident Date: ____________________

**Please mark resources utilized below and email form to FOCUS@stanislaussheriff.com

☐ Teacher  ☐ Nurse  ☐ Counselor  ☐ Community Resources
Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

FOCUSING ON CHILDREN UNDER STRESS

This letter is an introduction to the Focusing On Children Under Stress (FOCUS) Program and serves as encouragement for you to offer the program to students and families in your district and county. FOCUS is designed to decrease the negative effects on children who are exposed to violence and trauma. The goal of the FOCUS Program is for children to succeed to the best of their ability, regardless of the environment in which they live.

Research shows that prolonged exposure to violence and trauma can seriously undermine a child's ability to learn, form relationships, and focus appropriately in the classroom. FOCUS supports children exposed to violence and trauma through improved communication and collaboration between first responders including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical responders, schools, and community resources.

Recently, the FOCUS program was featured at the 8th Annual Safe Schools Conference where representatives from the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office and Probation Department shared their experience with this trauma-informed program involving law enforcement and educators. FOCUS, which is based on a successful national model, has been very effective in Stanislaus County; from April 2016 through June 2017, there were 112 referrals assisting 173 students.

I strongly encourage you to consider implementing the FOCUS Program as a way to support students experiencing trauma. Learn more about the program, protocols, and resources on the FOCUS Web site at https://www.focuscalifornia.org/.

For more information, including how to start this program in your district or county, contact Vicki Bauman, Prevention Programs, Director III, Stanislaus County Office of Education, by phone at 209-238-1361 or by e-mail at vbauman@stancoe.org or Nancy Zarenda, Education Policy Consultant, at 916-445-8441 or nzarenda@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

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