

Instructional Bio

Richard Trinkwalder is a seasoned law enforcement professional and educator with over two decades of real-world criminal justice experience and more than eight years of classroom teaching experience focused on youth ages 14 to 20. He currently teaches Criminal Justice at Grayson Technical Education Program within Gwinnett County Public Schools, where he has served since 2020, and has been an Adjunct Instructor at Lanier Technical College since 2017.

Richard's instructional philosophy combines hands-on learning with career-based outcomes, emphasizing critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and scenario-based training. His students participate in immersive experiences that include mock crime scenes, forensic investigations, and exposure to public safety careers. He has taught courses that span Criminal Justice Essentials, Introduction to Law and Public Safety, and Forensic Science Investigations.

He played a lead role in creating Georgia's first approved high school law enforcement certification program through collaboration with GA POST, the Georgia Department of Education, and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. His leadership extends to national career and technical education initiatives, including serving as Vice President of ACTE's New and Related Services Division and Chair of the Executive Board for LAPSEN.

With a law enforcement background that includes time as a police officer in Atlanta, investigator in Hall County, and compliance and fraud expert with the Georgia Department of Revenue, Richard brings unmatched depth to the classroom. His work on national vehicle crimes, child exploitation cases, and multimillion-dollar fraud schemes provides real-life context that elevates student learning.

Richard holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Covenant College and is a Certified Fraud Examiner. His commitment to student development, public safety, and law enforcement integrity makes him a respected leader in both education and justice communities.