



What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is an **unwanted, sexual gesture, touch, statement or any advance** that makes someone feel uncomfortable or unsafe.



Who are the Harassers?

Preteens & Teenagers. Girls & Boys. School Staff & Personnel.

35% of middle school and high school students report they have been victims of some form of sexual harassment.¹

How does it Affect the Victim?



Emotional Distress:

- Victims feel confusion about whether the behavior is appropriate
- Victims feel guilt thinking they somehow provoked the attack
- Victims feel isolated and often suffer in silence

What are the Consequences for the Harasser?



Disciplinary

Federal Law prohibits sexual harassment in schools and demands schools have grievance procedures in place to address harassment claims. Contact your school for more information.



Legal

Sexual harassment at school is punishable under Title IX of the Equal Opportunity in Education Act.



How Can You Prevent Sexual Harassment?

Parental Engagement

- Talk to your children about appropriate school behavior.
- Role-play what to do if they are harassed by another person.
- Explain alternative ways to express their interest in someone.

Parental Education

- Get involved with your child's school.
- Attend PTA/PTO meetings and Parent/Teacher Conferences to stay abreast of your child's in-school activities.
- Contact your child's doctor for information about the signs of harassment or go online for more resources:

Equal Rights Advocates

<http://www.equalrights.org/publications/kyr/shschool.asp>

Sexual Harassment Support

<http://www.sexualharassmentsupport.org>

Title IX.info

<http://www.titleix.info/>

Office for Civil Rights

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrshpam.html>

¹ Gruber, J.E. & Fineran, S. "Comparing the Impact of Bullying and Sexual Harassment Victimization on the Mental and Physical Health of Adolescents". *Sex Roles* (2008):58, (13-14)