

Sexual harassment

Concern

Sexual aggression and harassment of other students as characterized by uninvited sexually-oriented comments, snapping girls' bra straps, unwanted touching, applying sexual pressure, sexual aggression or acting out, sending/texting uninvited sexually-oriented content.

Description

These students range from the bully who uses sexual commentary or touch to intimidate others, to the reactive sexual victim who is acting out unresolved exploitation. This is different from the stalker, who is treated in a separate plan.

Some students make inappropriate sexual comments for no other reason than that is what they have seen modeled - in the media or at home. For them, changing their behavior is mostly a matter of consciousness raising and norm setting.

Other students are outright sexual bullies. They operate on a continuum from verbal harassment to brutal rape. The common theme at every point on the continuum is intimidation as a means to power or control. Regardless of why students end up at this point, they need to recognize the behavior is wrong, learn to practice self-control, and - as with all bullies - develop empathy that would preclude their treating other people as potential targets or victims.

A significant number of these students may have experienced sexual abuse at the hands of an older child or adult, usually someone well known to them. They may act out sexually in a failed effort to re-solve prior abuse. These students need to be directed to counseling resources.

If a student discloses abuse to a teacher or other mandated reporter, that abuse must be reported to the proper authorities.

Goals of intervention - students will:

- Understand that sexual harassment and sexual aggression, including forced sexual touching and sexual touching of a younger child, are wrong and illegal
- Develop core skills for stopping impulsive sexual reactions
- Develop empathy for the victims of harassment or aggression
- Recognize the role sexual abuse may play in their behavior
- Understand who to go to for help, if they have sexual problems

A suggested scope and sequence - Teens

Norms

Norms
Sexually harassed
Date rape - offender
Making out
Hate crime - perp
Molested
Dating abuse
Alcohol
Harrassment - perp
Porn

Empathy

Empathy
Understanding
feelings
Perspective taking
Predicting feelings
Gay
Lesbian
Impulse control
Stopping reactions
Predicting
consequences
Sex - restraint
Controlling impulses
Consent

Victimization

Molested
Child abuse
Anger
Shame
Domestic violence
Hate crime - target
Date rape - victim

Connecting to community

Getting help
Responsibility
Apologies
Internet - expressing
yourself

Cyberspace

Harassment - online
Sexual exploitation - online