What **Parents** Need to Know About Educator Sexual Misconduct with Students



AS A MATTER OF fact

National Children's Advocacy Center

Educator sexual misconduct ¹ includes a wide range of behaviors, not limited to, sexual innuendo; inappropriate touching; inappropriate text messaging, email, or social media contact with a student; soliciting sex from a student; or sexual contact with a student.

Who are the Perpetrators? 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

- Perpetrators may be classroom teachers, administrators, coaches, counselors, tutors, volunteers, or any others who work in an educational setting.
- Perpetrators may be either male or female.
- Perpetrators may be well-respected and highly regarded by other teachers, administrators, parents and the community.

Prevalence 1, 7, 9, 10



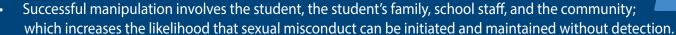


In a study by the American Association of University Women (2001)

Students grades 8 through
11 reported being sexually harassed by teachers or school employees.

Manipulation of Student/Staff/Community 2, 4, 11, 12, 13

- Manipulation, also known as "grooming", is a deliberate and carefully orchestrated process by
 which sexual offenders target, initiate, and maintain sexually abusive relationships with children
 and adolescents.
- Manipulation behaviors may, on the surface, appear innocent in nature, and distinguishing between sexually motivated manipulation and normal child/adult interactions can be difficult.



- Offenders often target vulnerable or marginal students who have prior academic, emotional, or behavioral problems, because these students are more likely to keep silent or if they do "tell", are less likely to be believed.
- Offenders may target students who are facing family challenges or adversities because these students are often susceptible to inappropriate attention from an adult.
- Offenders persuade students to keep silent by manipulating students' affections, or by exploiting the power differential between themselves and students.

Warning Signs⁴

- Obvious or inappropriate preferential treatment of the student.
- Excessive time spent alone with the student.
- Time spent with the student outside of class or other school functions.
- Repeated time spent in private spaces with the student.
- Driving the student to or from school.
- Befriending parents and making visits to the student's home.
- Acting as the student's confidante.
- Inappropriate calls, texts, or emails to the student.
- Overly affectionate behavior with the student.
- Flirtatious behavior or off-color remarks with the student.
- Schoolmates suspect an improper relationship between the educator and student, and make jokes or references about it to other students or adults.

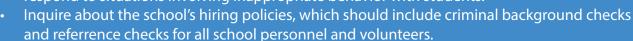


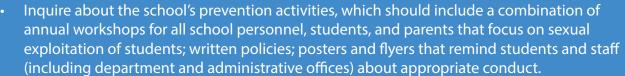




How Parents Can Protect 1, 2, 4, 10, 16, 17, 18

- Discuss body safety and teach your child how to refuse inappropriate behavior and how to report such activity.
- Review the school's "Code of Conduct" which should clearly define school personnel's obligations and responsibilities toward maintaining appropriate boundaries with students, to whom to report if an employee observes violations, and how the school will respond to situations involving inappropriate behavior with students.







How Parents Should Respond 1, 12, 15

- Provide practical and emotional support to their child.
- Accept and support their child, regardless of personal feelings about the alleged offender.
- Refrain from blaming their child, because blaming can become a significant barrier to a child's recovery.
- Refrain from investigating or proving the truth of an allegation.
- Call local law enforcement as soon as possible after a child discloses educator sexual misconduct or if the parent suspects educator sexual misconduct has occurred.



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