

# 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