

SSAIS letter to Northeast School Corporation Superintendent Mark Baker

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**following up on our conversation

**Date:**Thu, 10 Mar 2016 12:11:19 -0800

**From:**Esther Warkov <[esther@stopsexualassaultinschools.org](mailto:esther@stopsexualassaultinschools.org)>

**Organization:**Stop Sexual Assault in Schools

**To:**Mark Baker <[bakerm@nesc.k12.in.us](mailto:bakerm@nesc.k12.in.us)>

**CC:**

Mr. Baker,

I'm following up on our conversation today. I would think as superintendent you'd be on top of information that critically affects decision-making and the welfare of your students. I am disappointed that you didn't know that Indiana high schools have the second highest rate of rape in the nation. It is your duty to be informed about these matters. Read the reports and links in EDITORIAL: Indiana can't tolerate its number of rape victims. Apparently you DO tolerate and cover-up rape in your school district.

<http://indianaeconomicdigest.com/main.asp?SectionID=31&SubSectionID=135&ArticleID=83029>

Moreover, your district is required to be Title IX compliant. From our earlier correspondence it is clear that you haven't bothered to properly train your staff, claiming lack of funds. This can be done at no monetary cost. One only needs to be motivated to study the guidance from the US Dept of Education, widely available online. Your federal funding depends on being Title IX complaint, Mr. Baker. Your district is under federal investigation because the US Dept. of Education felt the investigation of the Hawker's complaint merited investigation. The DOE doesn't open complaints capriciously.

Sarah's life has been torn asunder as have other students and their education derailed because you failed to take proper measures to address unwelcome sexual touching, the standard of evidence that triggers Title IX, a civil rights law, as I explained. Until you remove the assailant from her school so all the female victims can return, you are complicit. Privileging a male assailant over female victims is discriminatory under Title IX and fosters a culture of sexual violence. Your actions have contributed to Indiana's rate of rape. Moreover, those who rape in high school will continue raping in college. There will be many more lives destroyed if you continue to leave this matter unchecked.

Finally, Title IX is a civil rights law. Please learn why criminal proceedings have no bearing on your duty under Title IX.

On behalf of all students, do the right thing. And please visit our website to learn about your responsibilities.

[stopsexualassaultinschools.org](http://stopsexualassaultinschools.org)

**SSAIS is “putting school districts everywhere on notice: drop the ball when a student reports a sexual assault, and we’ll expose it to the world.” —Tyler Kingkade, Senior Editor/Reporter, The Huffington Post**

**And read about our work in the media.**<http://stopsexualassaultinschools.org/our-work-in-the-media/>

**Please inform me immediately when the victims may return to school without their rapist present.**

Sincerely,

Esther Warkov

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**Stop Sexual Assault in Schools**

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***Educating students, families, and schools about sexual assault prevention  
and the right to an equal education free from sexual harassment***

**Stop Sexual Assault in Schools is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit**