

What is Title Nine?

[Title IX]

A federal law:

“no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.”

That means behaviors that affect someone’s right to learn and feel safe in school based on their sex, gender, or romantic or sexual preferences are not allowed.

What is Sexual Misconduct?

There’s a lot of talk about “sexual harassment,” “sexual assault,” and “dating violence,” but what does it mean?

This pamphlet uses the term “sexual misconduct” to refer to:

- Unwelcome or unwanted contact on students’ private areas, or being forced, threatened, or coerced to have sexual contact with another person’s private areas.
- Having sexual contact when one person can’t consent (say “yes”) due to drugs, alcohol, or any disability.
- Threatening, bullying, or intimidating words or messages in person or on social media.
- Offering better grades, class placement, sports team spots, or other rewards for sexual favors;.
- Any form of dating violence, which includes physical, verbal, emotional, sexual, or economic abuse or control, or stalking.

What does that really mean?

Here are some examples:

- You break up with your partner, but they keep messaging you over social media and following you around school, begging to get back together.
- Someone makes unwanted comments about your body, your gender, or your sexuality when they see you in class, the hallway, at sports games, etc.
- Your friend starts dating or talking to someone new, and suddenly they aren’t “allowed” to hang out with you anymore.
- You receive a nude picture or a sext that you did not ask for.

Reminder: Trust your feelings. You have them for a reason. You have the right to feel safe and comfortable at school. If something or someone is making you feel different, even if it doesn’t match the examples above, you have the right to talk to someone.

What Can I Do?

You have options:

- Report what happened to a trusted teacher, guidance counselor, nurse, or principal. (Note: school staff may be legally required to report what they learn.)
- Pursue a “Code of Conduct Violation” investigation through your school’s Title IX process and/or through your local law enforcement agency, if applicable.
- Ask for help from your school, such as extra tutoring, class and assignment changes, counseling, no-contact orders, and more.

Reminder: You have the right to make a report and not experience retaliation (“payback”). If you experience retaliation for making a report, you can report it to a trusted teacher, counselor, or administrator.

What Can I Do?

You can also contact RESTORE.

We provide free, confidential services 24/7, including:

- A free, 24/7 confidential hotline.
- Counseling at our office or your school.
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, student conduct, criminal or other processes.
- Support for you and your choices.
- We support student survivors, their friends and their families.



restoresas.org
restore@ppcwny.org

LGBTQ+ Students

Students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer + also have:

- The right to be called by their chosen name and correct pronouns.
- The right to use facilities (bathrooms and locker rooms) that correspond to their gender identity.
- The right to participate on sports teams that correspond to their gender identity.

This happened to my friend. How do I support them?

- Believe them. Practice saying it in the mirror: "I believe you. I am sorry this happened."
- Ask what they want to do next. Remember, you have options!
- If they aren't sure what to do next, encourage them to write it down (or write it down yourself), to get a "record" of behavior and patterns, in case they want to report later. Use a planner, calendar or notebook to track the date, place, and what happened.
- Let your friend lead the way. The days, weeks, or months after an assault can be a frightening and vulnerable time. Your friend may not feel ready or want to report what happened. Respect and empower their decisions, whatever they may be.

However, if you suspect that your friend has or is going to hurt themselves or someone else, it's okay to tell a trusted teacher or counselor.

Where Do I Go?

- A trusted teacher, counselor, or administrator
- Your district's Title IX Coordinator
- RESTORE 24-hour hotline:
 - **Monroe County:** 1-585-546-2777
 - **Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming Counties:** 1-800-527-1757
- @RESTOREsas on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- www.restoresas.org
- www.knowyourix.org
- www.loveisrespect.org
- RAINN: 1-800-656-4673



Know Your Rights