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Resources

Supportive Measures for Students Experiencing Sexual Harassment and Harm



Sexual Harassment Defined and Its Impact on Students



Limits to Confidentiality When Reporting Sexual Harassment



Know What to Do When Sexually Assaulted



Sexual Harassment and Assault Happen to Males Too



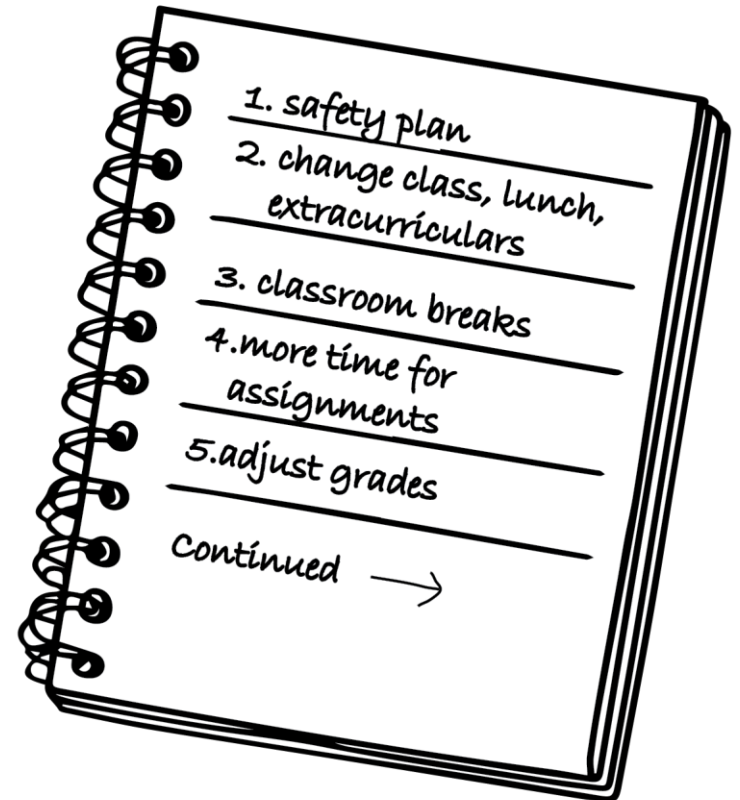
Sexual Misconduct by School Employees



Stop Sexual Assault in Schools website



I was harmed.
How can
my school
support me?



What else do I need to know?



Understanding what behaviors are considered sexual harassment or sexual assault will help you feel more confident asking for supportive measures. Explore the resources on the next page, as well as those in the "Learn" menu on the Stop Sexual Assault in Schools website. You can also find examples of safety plans for targeted students online.

Remember, if you experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other types of harm, you have the right to supportive measures at school.



7

What are supportive measures?



Supportive measures are free services and adjustments your school is required to give you if you experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other sexual harm. They are meant to help you feel safe.

Supportive measures are not punishment. They are accommodations schools provide to help students continue participating in classes, activities, and school life. They are also available to the student who committed harm to ensure a fair process while an investigation is ongoing.



2



What if I don't want to disclose?

Students who want support but prefer to keep details private still have options:

- Speak with a confidential advocate, such as staff from a sexual assault support agency, who can communicate with the school on your behalf.
- Ask questions using a hypothetical situation (“asking for a friend”).


Even if you don't want to make a formal report, you may still be able to request supportive measures:

- Say that something is affecting your safety without giving details
- Ask for help as a mental health or safety need, not a report about a specific person
- Focus on how you are being affected and what support you need
- Share how long you may need support and who can help you decide



When are they offered?

A school must offer supportive measures as soon as it learns about possible sexual harassment or violence, even if the school decides the conduct does not meet the federal definition of sexual harassment. Schools may also provide support for harm that happens off campus or outside school hours if it is connected to the school.



Supportive measures should be available:

- As soon as the school becomes aware of possible harm
- Before, during, or after a Title IX process
- Even if you do not file a formal complaint
- Even if you do not want an investigation

This applies whether the school learns about the situation from you or from someone else.

What are some examples?



Supportive measures should be based on what you need and what the school can reasonably provide. Your school can offer them for as long as you need to feel safe and keep learning.

Supporting safety (sometimes called a safety plan):

- Changing class schedules so you can avoid the person who caused harm. Their schedule can be changed so that the reporting student's schedule remains the same.
- No-contact orders between you and the other student
- Changes to seating, lunch periods, or extracurricular activities
- Staff escorts between classes or other safety planning
- Increased supervision in certain areas of the school

4



5

Supporting health and well-being:

- Allow you to select a support person of your choosing
- Permit you take a break or leave the classroom to visit your guidance counselor or school nurse, therapist, or psychologist whenever you are feeling anxious or afraid
- Arrange for counseling, mental health services, or medical care
- Permit flexible attendance or temporary leave if needed

Supporting academic performance:

- Grant extensions on your assignments or deadlines
- Arrange for you to take classes online
- Arrange for tutoring or extra academic help
- Adjust grades or allow for make-up work
- Allow you to stay in school activities, leadership roles, or honors programs even if rules would otherwise disqualify you from participation