

Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors

Section A - Introduction

Child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors harm students, their parents/guardians, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn. The Board has a responsibility and obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of:

1. issues regarding child sexual abuse,
2. likely warning signs that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse;
3. grooming behaviors related to child sexual abuse and grooming;
4. how to report child sexual abuse;
5. appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon State law; and
6. how to prevent child sexual abuse.

Section B - Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors Program

To address the Board's obligation to increase awareness and knowledge of these issues, help prevent sexual abuse of children, and define prohibited grooming behaviors, the Superintendent or designee shall implement an Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors Program. The Program will include, among other things:

1. An age-appropriate and evidence-informed health and safety education curriculum that includes methods for how to report child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors to authorities.
2. District counseling options, assistance, and intervention for students who are victims of or affected by sexual abuse.
3. Identification of community-based children's advocacy centers and sexual assault crisis centers and how to access those serving the District.
4. Training for District employees about child sexual abuse and grooming behaviors by January 31 of each school year with materials that include:
 - a. A definition of prohibited grooming behaviors and boundary violations pursuant to policy 6500 - Employee Ethics and Conduct; and
 - b. Evidence-informed content on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations pursuant to policies 2070, Uniform Grievance; 2080 Policy - Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure; 6700 Policy - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 6600 Policy - Staff Development Program; and 6500 - Employee Ethics and Conduct; and
 - c. How to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations pursuant to policies 2070, Uniform Grievance; 2080 Policy - Title IX Sexual Harassment

Grievance Proceduree; 6700 Policy - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.

5. Provision of information to parents/guardians in student handbooks about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations with evidence-informed educational information that also includes:
 - a. Assistance, referral, or resource information, including how to recognize grooming behaviors, appropriate relationships between District employees and students based upon policy 6500 - Employee Ethics and Conduct, and how to prevent child sexual abuse from happening;
 - b. Methods for how to report child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and/or boundary violations to authorities; and
 - c. Available counseling and resources for children who are affected by sexual abuse, including both emotional and educational support for students affected by sexual abuse, so that the student can continue to succeed in school.

Approved: January 23, 2023