

RAINN Training Supplement

Sexual Misconduct Awareness, Prevention, and Response – Pre-K to 8th

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Issue: Sexual misconduct is about power and control; it often involves subtle boundary violations meant to test, groom, and manipulate potential victims before overt or violent incidents

Influences: Responses to sexual misconduct are influenced by implicit biases, managing multiple professional roles, and common myths and misconceptions

Recognition: Recognizing sexual misconduct takes into account the fundamental role of boundaries, common perpetrator tactics, typical sexual development, and the impact trauma has on the brain, body, and sense of self

Communication: Trauma-informed communication can refer to the content of what is shared as well as the way in which information is presented

Response: Responding to sexual misconduct requires active intervention, adherence to clear policies, and a trauma-informed understanding of student needs

APPLYING THE INFORMATION

To reduce implicit bias

- Acknowledge you are biased; we all are
- Surface your biases prior to making decisions or responding
- Notice your gut reactions when responding/communicating
- Reduce the influence your biases have on your behavior, communication, and decision-making
- Repeat the process

To better recognize warning signs of child sexual abuse

- Establish a school culture that promotes understanding of and respect for boundaries
- Recognize the intent behind grooming and manipulation tactics of perpetrators
- Acknowledge typical sexual development across ages in order to identify sexual play or social behaviors that are atypical
- Notice stark changes in student behavior or personality, such as:

▪ Increased nightmares or sleep difficulties	▪ Substance use in older youth
▪ Withdrawn behavior	▪ High-risk behavior; angry outbursts
▪ No longer wanting to be left alone with specific individual(s)	▪ Self-harm
	▪ Suicidal ideation

To communicate with the school community about sexual misconduct

- Remember that anyone in your community could be a survivor, students could be experiencing unhealthy or abusive relationships at home, and all communication should include resources

To reduce the risk of peer-to-peer sexual harassment, teach students about

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships: What do they look, feel, and sound like?
- Boundaries: What are they, why do they matter, and how do you set and respect them?
- Bystander intervention (older youth): What is the purpose and how do you intervene safely?

To respond to sexual misconduct in a trauma-informed way

- Actively respond
 - Notice what is happening around you
 - Use incidents of subtle inappropriate conduct as an opportunity to teach and correct behavior
 - Intervene if something feels off
 - Take responsibility for community safety
- Acknowledge student concerns in the process
- Provide students with:
 - Safety: Be thoughtful with your tone, language, and physical presence
 - Control: Provide clarifying information; Create opportunities for a student to speak
 - Trust: Maintain appropriate boundaries; Provide transparency when possible
 - Understanding: Be knowledgeable about resources to address needs
 - Empathy: Validate emotions; Find ways to make the process of an investigation less difficult

IV. RESOURCES

RAINN’s Resources

- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800.656.HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Assault Online Hotline: hotline.rainn.org or hotline.rainn.org/es (Spanish)

Resources for Two Rivers Staff/Faculty

- D.C. Department of Behavioral Health Access Helpline: 888.7WE.HELP (93.4357)
 - 24/7 hotline staffed by behavioral health professionals
 - Call to get emergency psychiatric care, get help with problem solving, determine whether to seek ongoing services, and find out what services are available
- If you suspect abuse
 - Immediately inform a school administrator (Principal, AP, Dean or Director of Student Support, or supervisor)
 - Together, you will contact CFSA at 202.671.SAFE (7233)

Resources for Students

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800.273.TALK (8255): www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- Lin6 Support Line Online Chat Services for male survivors: www.lin6.org
- The Trevor Project for LGBTQ youth: 866.488.7386: www.thetrevorproject.org
- Love Is Respect youth dating violence hotline: 866.331.9474: www.loveisrespect.org