

Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program

The Waterbury School District ensures that schools sustain healthy, positive, and safe learning environments for all students. This requires the efforts of the entire staff.

The Waterbury Public Schools shall implement the Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program identified or developed, in compliance with P.A. 14-196, by the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and other assisting entities, with the goal of informing students and staff about child sexual abuse and assault awareness and available resources.

The program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Adopting a child sexual abuse and assault awareness curriculum to provide age-appropriate information to teach students between appropriate and inappropriate conduct in situations where child sexual abuse or assault could occur, and to identify actions a child may take to prevent and report sexual abuse or sexual assault;
2. Providing students with resources and referrals to handle these potentially dangerous situations;
3. Providing students access to available counseling and educational support;
4. Providing mandatory training to all District staff to ensure they are fully informed on:
 - a. the warning signs of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct involving a child,
 - b. mandatory reporting requirements,
 - c. school District policies, and
 - d. establishing and maintaining professional relationships with students, available resources for children affected by sexual abuse, sexual assault or misconduct.
5. Methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children; and
6. Permitting students to opt-out from participating in classroom instruction regarding sexual abuse and sexual assault upon receipt by the Principal or his/her designee of a written request from the student's parent/guardian. Such request shall be sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or from portions of it so specified by the parent/guardian.

Students, parents/guardians, teachers and school staff and school volunteers shall be provided information, at a minimum on an annual basis, on the District's policy and procedures against sexual abuse and assault. The information shall include evidence-based methods of preventing sexual abuse and assault, as well as how to effectively identify and respond to sexual abuse and incidents within the scope of the school.

The District shall utilize existing resources, including but not limited to, student support services staff (e.g. school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists) to assist in providing sexual abuse and assault intervention and prevention training.

Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program, continued**Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Assault**

Connecticut General Statutes §17a-101, as amended, requires all school employees including the Superintendent of Schools, school teachers, substitute teachers, administrators, school guidance counselors, school paraprofessionals, licensed nurses, physicians, psychologists, social workers, coaches of intramural or interscholastic athletics, or any other person, who in the performance of his/her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to District students, who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused, neglected, or placed in imminent risk of serious harm to report such abuse and/or neglect in compliance with applicable state statutes.

An oral report by telephone or in person shall be made as soon as possible but no later than 12 hours to the Commissioner of Children and Families and to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee followed within 48 hours by a written report to the Department of Children and Families.

Reporting suspected abuse and/or neglect of children, in addition to the requirements pertaining to staff training, record keeping and dissemination of this policy, shall be in accordance with the procedures established and set forth in the Administrative Regulation #5151.4.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 14-196, An Act Concerning a State-Wide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program

Policy adopted by the Waterbury Board of Education on September 7, 2017