

Grooming Prevention

“Grooming behaviors” means knowingly using a computer on-line service, Internet service, local bulletin board service, or any other device capable of electronic data storage or transmission, to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child, a child’s guardian, or another person believed to be a child or a child’s guardian, to commit any sex offense as defined in Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registry Act, to distribute photographs depicting the sex organs of a child, or to otherwise engage in any unlawful sexual conduct with a child or with another person believed to be a child.

“Evidence-informed” means modalities that were created utilizing components of evidence-based treatments or curriculums.

The Superintendent, or Superintendent’s designee shall be responsible for implementing training and activities which (1) increase the awareness of school personnel, students, and parents of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including: (a) awareness and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse, (b) awareness and knowledge of grooming behaviors and how to report those behaviors, (c) awareness of appropriate relationships between school personnel and students based on State law, and (d) how to prevent child abuse from happening, including but not limited to, methods outlined in State law regarding personal health and safety education for students.

Curriculum

The Superintendent, or Superintendent’s designee, shall develop an age-appropriate and evidence-informed curriculum for students of the School District addressing sexual abuse.

Parents and guardians shall be provided with not less than five (5) days written notice of prior to commencing instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse. Parents and guardians shall have the right to submit a written objection to their student’s participation such instruction.

Training for School Personnel

Training for school personnel will include evidenced-informed training on preventing, recognizing, reporting, and responding to child sexual abuse and grooming behavior, including when grooming or abuse is committed by a member of the school community, with a discussion of the criminal statutes addressing sexual conduct between school personnel and students, professional conduct, and reporting requirements, including but not limited to training as outlined in Section 10-22. and Section 3-11 of the School Code.

Training required by this policy will also include how to report child abuse to law enforcement authorities, to the Department of Children and Family Services, and how to report grooming behaviors, including when grooming or abuse is committed by a member of the school community.

Training for school personnel required by this policy shall be provided no later than January 31, of each year.

Information for Students & Parents

Evidence-informed educational information shall be provided to parents or guardians provided in the school handbook on the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information.

Students and parents and guardians shall be informed of options that a student who is the victim of sexual abuse has to obtain assistance and intervention, including available counseling options and resources, and emotional and educational support for a child to continue to be successful in school, for students affected by sexual abuse. Such information shall include information about children’s advocacy centers and sexual assault crisis centers, and how to access children’s advocacy centers or sexual assault crisis centers serving the School District.

Cross Reference: Policy #2045 Grievance Procedure
Policy #4125 Title IX Sexual Harassment
Policy #4205 Sexual Harassment
Policy #5120 Reports of Abused/Neglected Children
Policy #4200/5200 Anti-Bullying, Harassment & Intimidation

Legal Reference: 105 ILCS 5/10-23.13
105 ILCS 5/27.13.2

Policy Adopted: February 23, 2022
BOARD OF EDUCATION, School District 101, Western Springs, IL

Policy Reviewed: June 20, 2023
BOARD OF EDUCATION, School District 101, Western Springs, IL