

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION GUIDE

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual remarks or behaviors. It can be verbal, physical, or visual. Here are a few examples of sexual harassment.

Verbal:

- Making sexual jokes, comments, or spreading rumors targeted at someone (in person or online)
- Making sexual jokes or comments about students' bodies or how they look or act
- Making jokes or comments about students' masculinity or femininity and/or who they are attracted to or love



Physical:

- Pulling at or touching someone's clothing in a sexual manner (like pulling down someone's pants or snapping a bra strap)
- Touching, pinching, or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- Brushing up against someone's body on purpose



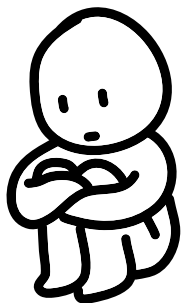
Visual:

- Posting or sharing sexual comments, pictures, or videos
- Pressuring someone to take or send sexual pictures or videos ("nudes")



Sexual harassment can make someone feel many emotions

You may feel scared, uncomfortable, upset, embarrassed or angry.



When it comes to sexual harassment, what matters is how the action makes a person think or feel--not the intention of the person who did it.

Sexual harassment can happen anywhere or to anyone. It can take place in person or online. But no matter where sexual harassment happens, it is never OK. It is wrong and it is against the law.



What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual act that one person chooses to do to another person without consent (permission) through physical force, threats, or pressure (verbal or emotional).

Here are a few examples of sexual assault:

- Touching someone's genitals, breast, or butt without their permission (consent)
- Unwanted behavior or touch over or under clothes
- Unwanted kissing
- Physically forcing someone to perform a sexual act
- Threatening or pressuring a person to do any sexual act
- Unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with a body part or object (also known as rape)

Sexually assaulting another person is wrong and it is against the law. In Michigan statute, this is called “Criminal Sexual Conduct.”

About Consent

- Consent means that each person agrees or gives permission.
- Anyone can change their mind at any time.
- Consent means each person understands what is going on and agrees to all of it.
- Someone needs to get consent every single time.
- Just because someone said “yes” before, does not mean “yes” now.
- It is not OK to use threats, emotional pressure, or the fact that another person is drunk or high to get what you want.

If someone doesn't consent to sexual acts it is sexual assault.



What if This is Happening to Me?

It is not your fault. You are not alone.

- No one has the right to sexually harass or assault anyone else.
- You have the right to feel safe and respected.
- If you feel like you won't be harmed, tell them this is not okay and to stop.
- Consider telling a trusted adult if any of these behaviors happen to you. If the trusted adult is a teacher, coach, or school staff, they may have to tell someone else (like a principal, parents, etc.). If you're not sure if you are ready or want to tell a trusted adult at your school, you can talk to them without saying it happened to you ("I have a friend who...").
- If the first person isn't helpful, keep trying until you find someone who is.
- Speaking up is a brave thing to do. Don't be afraid to seek help from someone you trust.
- Resources listed on page 4 are available 24/7 to support you.

Scientific research tells us that people who experience traumatic events like sexual harassment and sexual assault have many different responses in their brains, bodies, feelings, and behaviors. However YOU respond to trauma is OK and is normal.

What if This is Happening to Someone I Know?

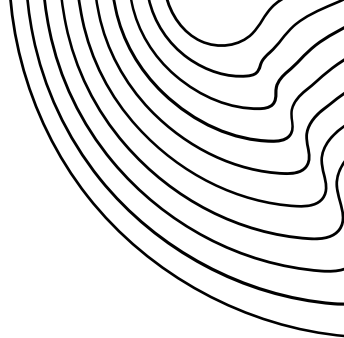
Believe. Listen. Support.



- Believe them! If someone tells you that someone has sexually harassed or assaulted them, know that it is very hard to tell someone about this and that person trusts and respects you enough to share this information. Let them know that what happened is not their fault and you are there to support them.
- Listen without judgment. Give them space and time to tell you what they feel comfortable sharing.
- Ask how you can support them. What you would need might differ from what your friend needs, so always ask. Let your friend decide who else can know.



Resources



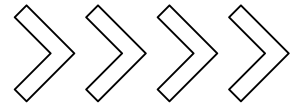
There is Help.

You can call or chat with any of the resources below 24/7. People who are trained are there to listen and support you no matter what. **You don't have to tell them your name.** They can connect you with people and organizations nearby who can help you with questions or needs.

Michigan's Sexual Assault Hotline (VOICES4)

Text: 866-238-1454 **Call:** 855-864-2374

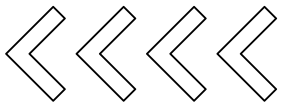
Chat: <https://mcedsv.org/sexual-violence-hotline-chat/>



Michigan's Domestic/Dating Violence Hotline (VOICEDV)

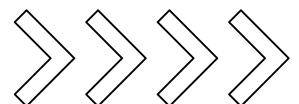
Text: 877-861-0222 **Call:** 866-864-2338

Chat: <https://mcedsv.org/hotline-domestic-violence/>



Youth Resources Web Page

<https://mcedsv.org/resources>



School Title IX Coordinator

If someone sexually assaulted or sexually harassed you at school or at a school event, you can choose to talk to your School District's Title IX Coordinator. Part of their responsibilities is to prevent and respond to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender. Note: If you report to a Title IX Coordinator, they are required by law to follow up and may conduct an investigation.

If you report a sexual assault or sexual harassment incident, the policies forbid someone from retaliating or doing something to get back at you. See page 5 for your school's Title IX information and other related policies.



12121 Broadstreet Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48204
313.934.0054 ♦ 313.934.0074 fax

District Title IX Coordinator

Dr. Patricia A. Davis
12121 Broadstreet
(313) 934-0054

District Policies Related to Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

POLICY: Hope Academy’s Anti-Harassment - Summary. “Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault” are addressed in **Hope Academy Board Policy 5517, “Anti-Harassment.”** Hope Academy Board Anti-Harassment Policy objective is to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful a harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all Academy operations programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other Academy personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, height, weight, martial or family status, military status ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, Protected Classes) that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the Academy community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

The Academy will offer counseling service to any person found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

For the complete Hope Academy’s Anti-Harassment Policy 5517, which includes Sexual Harassment and Assault visit the District’s Webpage – Transparency Reporting Section at:

<https://hopeacad.org/transparency-reporting1/>

Hope Academy policies prohibit adverse action against a person for reporting sexual harassment and sexual assault.