

What is school-based sexual harassment?

School –based sexual harassment is unwanted sexual attention that someone experiences on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions.

How do I know if what I’m experiencing is sexual harassment? Maybe someone is just flirting with me.

According to the law, the feelings of the person receiving the attention determine whether or not a behavior is sexual harassment. Flirting is welcome, wanted sexual behavior, whereas sexual harassment is unwanted.

How do I know if I’m sexually harassing someone?

Ask yourself, “Why do I think this person wants this attention? Am I sure that he or she doesn’t mind that I say or do these things? How would I feel if someone said or did this to my sister or brother, or to me?” If you aren’t sure whether or not the person welcomes the attention, ask.

Why do some people make such a big deal out of this? It’s just a part of life. People who are offended by it have no sense of humor.

Sexual harassment is serious, illegal and degrading. No one should have to tolerate abuse. Sexual harassment should not be dismissed by saying that “boys will be boys” or by saying that experiencing it will help someone learn to deal with the “real world.” Students who have been sexually harassed, especially girls, report that they find it harder to concentrate and study, think about changing schools, earn lower grades, and like themselves less as a result of the harassment.

What can I do if I am being sexually harassed at school?

- *Tell someone you trust, like a parent, teacher, or counselor, about the harassment.*
- *Remember that it is not your fault.*
- *Make it clear to the harasser that you don’t want him or her to do those things. If you don’t want to confront the person, write a letter.*
- *Keep any notes or pictures the harasser sends you. Keep a record of when and where each incident occurs. This information will be useful if you report the harassment to a school administrator, or if you decide to take legal action.*

Sexual Harassment at School. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Students who believe they are victims of sexual harassment must report their concerns to the school counselor or building principal to assure consistency in handling the complaints. Procedures used in handling the complaints will be in accordance with the Board Policy.