

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

POLICY

No. 5145.511(a)

**RE: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
Students**

Approved: June 13, 2017

Sexual abuse prevention and education program

The Bloomfield school district ensures that schools sustain healthy, positive, and safe learning environments for all students. It is important to change the social climate of the school and the school norms with regards to sexual abuse and assault. This requires the efforts of the entire staff.

Therefore, the Bloomfield public schools shall develop a comprehensive child abuse program with the goal of informing students and staff about child sexual abuse and assault awareness.

The program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Adopting a child 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 potential 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.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

POLICY

No. 5145.511(b)

**RE: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
Students**

Approved: June 13, 2017

5. Methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children; and
6. Permitting students to opt from participating in classroom instructions 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, parent/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.

Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Assault

In furtherance of C.G.S. 17a-101 et. seq., and its purpose, the Board of Education requires ALL EMPLOYEES of the Board of Education to report suspected abuse and/or neglect, or imminent risk of serious harm, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Furthermore, the Board of Education requires all personnel who have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child, under the age of eighteen (18), has been sexually abused or assaulted to report such cases in accordance with the law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

POLICY

No. 5145.511(c)

**RE: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
Students**

Approved: June 13, 2017

A mandated reporter shall make an oral report, by telephone or in person, to the Commissioner of Children and Families or a law enforcement agency as soon as possible, but no later than twelve (12) hours after the reporter has reasonable cause to suspect the child has been abused. In addition, the mandated reporter shall inform the Building Principal or his/her designee that he/she will be making such a report. Not later than forty-eight (48) hours of making the oral report, the mandated reporter shall file a written report with the Commissioner of Children and Families or his/her designee. (The Department of Children and Families has established a 24 hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-842-2288 for the purpose of making such oral reports.)

The oral and written reports shall include, if known: (1) the names and addresses of the child and his/her parents/guardians; (2) the child's age; (3) the child's gender; (4) the nature and extent of the child's sexual abuse or assault; (5) the approximate date and time the sexual abuse occurred; (6) information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of, the child or his/her siblings; (7) the circumstances in which the sexual abuse or assault came to be known to the reporters; (8) the name of the person(s) suspected to be responsible for causing such abuse; (9) the reasons such person or persons are suspected of causing such abuse; (10) any information concerning any prior cases in which such person or persons have been suspected of such action; and (11) whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist the child.

If the report of sexual abuse involves an employee of the District as the perpetrator, the District may conduct its own investigation into the allegation, provided that such investigation shall not interfere with or impede any investigation conducted by the Department of children and Families or by a law enforcement agency.

The Board of Education recognizes that the Department of children and Families is required to disclose records to the Superintendent of Schools in response to a mandated reporter's written or oral report of abuse or neglect or if the Commissioner of Children and Families has reasonable belief that a school employee abused a student. Not later than five (5) working days after an investigation of child abuse by a school employee has been completed, DCF is required to notify the Superintendent and the State Department of Education of the investigation's results.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bloomfield, Connecticut

POLICY

No. 5145.511(d)

RE: Exploitation; Sexual Harassment
Students

Approved: June 13, 2017

If DCF has reasonable cause, and recommends the employee be placed on DCF's Child Abuse and Neglect Registry, the Superintendent shall suspend such employee.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Connecticut General Statutes P.A. 14-196, An Act Concerning A State-Wide Sexual Abuse And Assault Awareness Program.