

## RAINN Training Supplement

### *Sexual Misconduct Awareness, Prevention, and Response – Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup>*

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS

**The Issue:** Sexual misconduct is about power and control; it often involves subtle boundary violations meant to test, groom, and manipulate potential victims before overt or violent incidents

**Influences:** Responses to sexual misconduct are influenced by implicit biases, managing multiple professional roles, and common myths and misconceptions

**Recognition:** Recognizing sexual misconduct takes into account the fundamental role of boundaries, common perpetrator tactics, typical sexual development, and the impact trauma has on the brain, body, and sense of self

**Communication:** Trauma-informed communication can refer to the content of what is shared as well as the way in which information is presented

**Response:** Responding to sexual misconduct requires active intervention, adherence to clear policies, and a trauma-informed understanding of student needs

#### APPLYING THE INFORMATION

##### To reduce implicit bias

- Acknowledge you are biased; we all are
- Surface your biases prior to making decisions or responding
- Notice your gut reactions when responding/communicating
- Reduce the influence your biases have on your behavior, communication, and decision-making
- Repeat the process

##### To better recognize warning signs of child sexual abuse

- Establish a school culture that promotes understanding of and respect for boundaries
- Recognize the intent behind grooming and manipulation tactics of perpetrators
- Acknowledge typical sexual development across ages in order to identify sexual play or social behaviors that are atypical
- Notice stark changes in student behavior or personality, such as:
  - Increased nightmares or sleep difficulties
  - Withdrawn behavior
  - No longer wanting to be left alone with specific individual(s)
  - Substance use in older youth
  - High-risk behavior; angry outbursts
  - Self-harm
  - Suicidal ideation

##### To communicate with the school community about sexual misconduct

- Remember that anyone in your community could be a survivor, students could be experiencing unhealthy or abusive relationships at home, and all communication should include resources

### To reduce the risk of peer-to-peer sexual harassment, teach students about

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships: What do they look, feel, and sound like?
- Boundaries: What are they, why do they matter, and how do you set and respect them?
- Bystander intervention (older youth): What is the purpose and how do you intervene safely?

### To respond to sexual misconduct in a trauma-informed way

- Actively respond
  - Notice what is happening around you
  - Use incidents of subtle inappropriate conduct as an opportunity to teach and correct behavior
  - Intervene if something feels off
  - Take responsibility for community safety
- Acknowledge student concerns in the process
- Provide students with:
  - Safety: Be thoughtful with your tone, language, and physical presence
  - Control: Provide clarifying information; Create opportunities for a student to speak
  - Trust: Maintain appropriate boundaries; Provide transparency when possible
  - Understanding: Be knowledgeable about resources to address needs
  - Empathy: Validate emotions; Find ways to make the process of an investigation less difficult

## IV. RESOURCES

### RAINN's Resources

- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800.656.HOPE (4673)
- National Sexual Assault Online Hotline: [hotline.rainn.org](https://hotline.rainn.org) or [hotline.rainn.org/es](https://hotline.rainn.org/es) (Spanish)

### Resources for Two Rivers Staff/Faculty

- D.C. Department of Behavioral Health Access Helpline: 888.7WE.HELP (93.4357)
  - 24/7 hotline staffed by behavioral health professionals
  - Call to get emergency psychiatric care, get help with problem solving, determine whether to seek ongoing services, and find out what services are available
- If you suspect abuse
  - Immediately inform a school administrator (Principal, AP, Dean or Director of Student Support, or supervisor)
  - Together, you will contact CFSA at 202.671.SAFE (7233)

### Resources for Students

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800.273.TALK (8255): [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- Lin6 Support Line Online Chat Services for male survivors: [www.lin6.org](https://www.lin6.org)
- The Trevor Project for LGBTQ youth: 866.488.7386: [www.thetrevorproject.org](https://www.thetrevorproject.org)
- Love Is Respect youth dating violence hotline: 866.331.9474: [www.loveisrespect.org](https://www.loveisrespect.org)