



SIRC: Information for PPS Parents

Have you been contacted by your child's school about setting up a "SIRC" meeting?

Parents/guardians are integral to the effectiveness of any school-based behavioral intervention team. As such, we invite you to learn more about SIRC; our district SIRC coordinator, Alex Kahl, is also available to answer your questions at any time in this process.

What is SIRC?

SIRC or *Sexual Incident Response Committee* is an assessment tool used by school districts across Oregon that examines sexualized behaviors in children to assist schools in determining appropriate interventions to ensure safety for all PK-12 students. SIRC's purpose is to provide timely support to kids, and mitigate potential risk to others in the school community. SIRC assesses a broad range of sexualized behaviors to determine whether they are developmentally appropriate, and whether they may be indicative of other risk factors. Most importantly, SIRC informs a multidisciplinary team of educators (administrators, counselors, subject matter experts) at your child's school in better understanding why your child may be exhibiting this behavior and how to respond and support your child during the school day. SIRC is an integral part of our comprehensive response to Title IX-related matters or incidents at school, which is illustrated in the following Venn diagram.

[For more on what is covered under Title IX click here.](#)

Comprehensive Framework for Response to Sexualized Behavior at School

For more on Title IX please visit www.pps.net/titleix and click on the PPS student/families link.



Why is my child being referred to SIRC?

SIRC is designed to connect students and families to support. Your child may have been observed or reported to have engaged in sexualized behavior at school or in the community. This can vary from sexualized language or gestures to sexualized behavior that may harm another child (such as touching another's body without consent, sexual harassment or sexual violence). Depending on your child's age, these behaviors are categorized as normative or non-normative.

[Click here for more from the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth.](#)

It is important to note that SIRC is not a diagnostic or psychological tool, thus, any information gleaned or safety protocol or other outcome derived from the assessment will not directly influence any subsequent IEP or 504 (special education) planning. However, the information gathered in SIRC may inform interventions or suggest adjustments to existing special education plans.

Is my child in trouble?

No. SIRC is not a disciplinary or investigative tool. In some instances, there may be a disciplinary aspect to your child's behavior while at school, however,

information derived from SIRC cannot be used against a child or applied to discipline or other consequences. SIRC is not an investigation of what occurred. SIRC assists in uncovering the “why” of underlying behavior not the “what.”

SIRC’s ultimate goal is to support children, families and schools in determining the most appropriate interventions or supports. The goal is to extinguish the behavior and prevent further harm to self or others. To be successful in extinguishing these behaviors and keeping all children safe at school, we rely on the cooperation and trust of the child’s parent or guardian to be effective. You are an essential and important member of your child’s team.

What will happen in this meeting? Who will attend?

The parent or guardian is invited and plays a central role in the success of any intervention planned. The parent or guardian also offers a unique and critical perspective to the team’s understanding of the origin of the behavior and why it is occurring. The SIRC meeting also includes a multidisciplinary team of educators including the principal or vice principal, the counselor, and other faculty as needed (Special Education Case Manager, School Psychologist, etc.). Alex Kahl, SIRC Coordinator may or may not participate but can offer information and support regardless. Taking a multidisciplinary approach allows the school staff to gain a fuller, more comprehensive understanding of your child’s needs and functioning within the school environment.

Additionally, school employees who have directly observed your child or have a relationship with your child may be invited to offer written information through a questionnaire. Similarly, the parent or guardian may be asked to respond to a set of questions if they are unable to attend the meeting.

What happens after the parent meeting?

The school team will convene to discuss all the information collected and determine what interventions (if any) are most likely to ensure safety. Next, a member of the team is identified to lead the implementation and ensure fidelity to the agreement. The agreement may include referral or connection to outside

community resources, safety plans or other interventions deemed to be most helpful. Safety plans are not permanent and should be reevaluated each year (at a minimum). If you believe the plan needs to be amended sooner, for any reason, please let your school administrator (such as the principal) know.

Who can I speak to (at the district) for more specific information about SIRC?

Alex Kahl is the district's SIRC Coordinator.

akahl@pps.net or 503.312.8338 (call/text)

Where can I find general information?

- You may find information from Dr. Wilson Kenny helpful at his [website](#) or consider reading his book (*PPS adapted Dr. Kenny's approach to apply to the uniqueness of this school district*).
- Kenny, W. (2013). [Sexual misconduct in children: An intervention model that works in schools and communities](#). Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield Education.
- A review of Dr. Kenny's book (Spangler, 2016) offers an accessible, simplified overview of the text and highlights the importance of systematic response to child's sexualized behaviors in school. [Click here for full text.](#)

The district's Title IX Director is:

Liane K. O'Banion, Ed.D.

lobanion@pps.net

503.568.2646 (call/text)



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