



**Child Abuse Prevention & Reporting  
and  
Adult Sexual Misconduct**

**Mandatory Training for PPS Volunteers**

# PPS is Committed to the Safety of Students

- ▶ School employees are required to take annual child abuse prevention training (ORS 339.400).
- ▶ As a volunteer, you should report suspected incidents of child abuse to the **school principal**.
- ▶ Oregon Child Abuse Reporting Law (ORS 419B.005 to 419B.05D):
  - ▶ All adults have the responsibility to report suspected child abuse.
  - ▶ All school district employees are mandatory reporters, and must report if they suspect child abuse or neglect.

## If a student reports abuse to you while you are volunteering at PPS

- ▶ Always take it seriously.
- ▶ Your responsibility is to report it to the **school principal** so that further evaluations can occur.
- ▶ Do not ask a child to show you their injuries.
- ▶ If a child says that they are hurt and refers to a part of their body that you can't see or appears uncomfortable, refer them to the **school nurse or school principal**.
- ▶ In Oregon, spanking by parents/guardians is not against the law. However, it is illegal for school employees to use spanking.

# Types of Child Abuse

- ▶ Physical Abuse
- ▶ Child Sexual Abuse
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Emotional Abuse/Mental Injury
- ▶ Threat of Harm

# Physical Abuse

- ▶ Physical abuse is the intended, non-accidental physical injury or cruelty to a child.
- ▶ Physical abuse can result in any of the following:
  - ▶ Skin injuries (bruises, swelling, scrapes, welts, burns)
  - ▶ Fractures or sprains
  - ▶ Internal injuries
  - ▶ Head injuries
  - ▶ Death

# Child Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Child sexual abuse occurs when an adult (or an older child) uses or tries to use, a child for sexual gratification.
- ▶ Child abuse can be physical abuse or it can also include contact that is not physical but is sexual in nature (voyeurism, exposing oneself, sexual solicitations, exposure to sexual material, or conversations that are sexual in nature).

# Neglect

- ▶ Neglect is the most common type of abuse.
- ▶ Children are considered neglected whenever their basic needs are not met.
- ▶ Neglect is the chronic or repeated failure to provide children with: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, attention to physical hygiene, social and educational opportunities and adequate supervision.
- ▶ A child must never be left in a position of authority or in situations that they cannot handle, depending on the child's maturity.

# Emotional Abuse/Mental Injury

- ▶ Emotional abuse/mental injury is the chronic act or omission that interferes with a child's psychological/social development. It can be difficult to detect.
- ▶ Emotional abuse by a caregiver refers to a **PATTERN** of behavior that may include the following:
  - ▶ Ridicule (making fun of) or rejection of a child. Berating, telling the child that they are worthless, unwanted and/or unloved.
  - ▶ Terrorizing a child by threatening him or her directly, or a child's family members, loved ones, possessions or pets.
  - ▶ Ignoring or refusing to interact with the child.
  - ▶ Socially isolating the child so that he or she cannot develop other relationships.



# Threat of Harm

- ▶ Threat of Harm is defined as, “all actions, statements, written or non-verbal messages conveying threats of physical or mental injury which are serious enough to unsettle the child’s mind. It includes: expressions of intent to inflict pain, injury, or punishment on the child.”
- ▶ Threat of Harm exists whenever a child’s health or welfare is endangered by a caregiver.
- ▶ Threat of Harm represented 40.7% of all reported cases of child abuse in Oregon. (DHS, 2016 Child Welfare Data Book, April 2017)

# Abuse of Children with Disabilities

- ▶ Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of abuse than children without disabilities.
- ▶ Children with disabilities may have difficulty communicating clearly and the abuser might think that the child won't tell anyone what has happened or that the child won't be believed.
- ▶ Some children with disabilities require adults to provide personal hygiene care for them, making it less obvious if sexual abuse is occurring. There may be a lack of education for children with disabilities about healthy sexuality, body boundaries and self protection mechanisms.

# PPS Employees are Mandatory Reporters

- ▶ Any person may report incidents or suspected child abuse or neglect.
- ▶ School personnel, day-care providers, social workers, health care workers, and law enforcement officers are all designated as mandatory reporters in Oregon.
- ▶ Oregon state law requires mandatory reporters to notify the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a local law enforcement agency of incidents or suspected child abuse.

# If you See Something, Say Something

- ▶ A volunteer who observes signs, or becomes aware of potential child abuse should immediately report it to the **school principal**.
- ▶ Under no circumstances should anyone contact a student's parent/guardian about a child abuse report.
- ▶ Volunteers must keep all information about students strictly confidential.
- ▶ Other Resources:
  - ▶ Multnomah County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 503-731-3100.
  - ▶ SafeOregon to anonymously report a school safety threat, such as a weapon or threat of violence at school: 844-472-3367.



# **Adult Sexual Misconduct Mandatory Training for PPS Volunteers**

Source: J. Wilson Kenney PhD, Center for Integrated Intervention,  
“Adult Sexual Misconduct Response.”

# Definition of Adult Sexual Misconduct

- ▶ Any sexual activity (physical or not) directed to a student with the purpose of developing a romantic or sexual relationship.\*
- ▶ Also, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex/gender/orientation. \*\*

\*US Government Accountability Office (2014)

\*\* Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

# What to Look for - Grooming Behaviors

- ▶ Child grooming is establishing an emotional connection with a child to lower their inhibitions with the objective of sexual abuse. Examples include:
  - ▶ Inappropriate sexual talk or behavior directed at or expressed in the company of students
  - ▶ Overly personal messages, notes, texts, yearbook inscriptions
  - ▶ Risqué jokes or degrading or provocative remarks
  - ▶ Suggestive teasing or innuendo
  - ▶ Students singled out for favors/gifts
  - ▶ Secretive or flirtatious behavior

# Perpetrators of Adult Sexual Misconduct Work Diligently to Hide it By:

- ▶ Appearing above reproach
- ▶ Developing close ties to family and school
- ▶ Working to develop loyalty in the student
- ▶ Claiming to be acting out of concern
- ▶ Going on the attack



# Inappropriate Behavior

- ▶ Inappropriate touching- patting butt, backrubs, front hugs
- ▶ Sexual comments about students
- ▶ Showing porn or risqué content to students
- ▶ Poor boundaries/oversharing
- ▶ Being alone in a locked room
- ▶ Private internet contact or “sexting”
- ▶ Hanging out with students off school grounds in non-school based activities

# So what is okay with students?

## Appropriate Behavior May Include:

- ▶ Positive reinforcement
- ▶ Appropriate humor
- ▶ Non-personal compliments
- ▶ Overt and public interactions
- ▶ Legitimate non-sexual touching: side hugs, or comforting an injured student. However, children have a right to not be touched at all, if they prefer. Respect their boundaries.

# If you See Something, Say Something

- ▶ A volunteer who observes signs, or becomes aware of potential Adult Sexual Misconduct or child abuse should immediately report it to the **school principal**.
- ▶ If you still have concerns, you may contact the district's Title IX Coordinator at 503-916-3340.
- ▶ Other Resources:
  - ▶ Multnomah County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 503-731-3100.
  - ▶ SafeOregon to anonymously report a school safety threat, such as a weapon or threat of violence at school: 844-472-3367.

# Thank You!

- ▶ Thank you for taking the time to review the important information in this Child Abuse & Adult Sexual Misconduct training. And, thank you for volunteering. You and all the many PPS volunteers make a positive impact on our students!
- ▶ If you wish to provide feedback on this training or your experiences as a volunteer, please email [volunteer@pps.net](mailto:volunteer@pps.net).