

6.ICR.2.4 - Use resources in the family, school, and community to report sexual harassment and bullying.

# Pre-Test

1. What is sexual harassment?
2. What does “unwelcome” mean?
3. List 5 examples of sexual harassment.
4. What can you do if you think someone is being sexually harassed?

# Sexual Harassment

6.ICR.2.4



Phoebe Prince It began in September, 2009, when Phoebe Prince arrived at South Hadley High School in Massachusetts after moving with her family from Ireland. She dated senior Sean Mulveyhill until December, but they eventually broke up and he went back to his former girlfriend, Kayla Narey. Then she started dating Austin Renaud, who had an on-again, off-again relationship with Flannery Mullins. Narey and Mullins weren't too happy that the charming new girl was stealing away their boyfriends. So with the help of their friend, Sharon Chanon Velazquez, they launched what would become a three-month campaign of harassment that would eventually lead to Phoebe's suicide.

Prosecutors say the girls constantly confronted Phoebe at school -- in the gym, the library, the cafeteria and the girls' bathroom -- calling her a whore and an "Irish slut" and threatening to beat her up. At one point Phoebe asked her friends to surround her for protection in the hallways as she passed from class to class. But she was often left in tears. Phoebe also faced unmerciful bullying on Facebook. Two weeks before she died, she sent a text to a friend saying school had become nearly "intolerable."

On January 28, 2010, the day she committed suicide, she was loudly denounced in the school library, then taunted again after school let out. A teacher and other students witnessed the incident in the library, but no one reported it to administrators. On her way home, one of the girls yelled insults and threw a can at Phoebe as they passed in a car. By 4:55 that day, Phoebe was dead. She'd hanged herself in the stairway of her family's apartment.

1. What is your first reaction after hearing this true story?
2. What could have been done to prevent this tragedy?
3. Who could Phoebe have gone to for help?

# REVIEW:

- In groups of three or four, (make sure each group has a recorder and a reporter) discuss and reach a consensus (agree on answers) for the following questions in your group.
  - As you answer these questions, the recorder in your group needs to write the answers down so he or she can report to the class in a few minutes.
  - What percent of middle school students do you think are bullied by another student here at school?
  - What behaviors are considered bullying?

42.1% of middle school students reported that they had been bullied on school property.

- Does it surprise you that almost half of the middle school students say they have been bullied at school?
  - Why or why not?
- Do you think the percentage of students who say they have been bullied at school is increasing or decreasing?
  - (It increased from the 2009 NCYRBS – 41.7%)



# What is Sexual Harassment?

**Law defines sexual harassment as:**

Any unwanted or unwelcome behavior -- of a sexual nature -- that makes you feel uncomfortable, fearful or powerless, and interferes with your schoolwork.

Sexual harassment can happen to anyone.

# What does “unwelcome” mean?

*According to the U.S. Department of Education,*

*“Conduct of a sexual nature is unwelcome when the student being harassed did not request or invite the conduct and regarded it as offensive or undesirable.”*

# Examples of Sexual Harassment

- Sexual comments about a person's body
- Sexual gestures
- Sexual (“dirty”) jokes
- Sexual touching
- Sexual suggestions or advances
- Showing offensive sexual pictures, stories or objects

# Examples of Sexual Harassment

- Sexual graffiti
- Spreading rumors about another student's sexual behavior
- Talking about one's own sexual activities in front of others
- Touching oneself in a sexual manner in front of others
- Name calling of a sexual nature

# Flirting or Sexual Harassment?

Miguel loves to “mess with” the girls. He was always doing something to Alana and Noemi. He would “pick at” them in the halls by grabbing things out of their lockers during class change. He would also bump into them gently in the hall or punch them and run. At first, the girls didn’t mind and thought some of the things he did were funny.

Since Alana and Noemi always laughed at Miguel, he started trying to hug them and even popped Noemi’s bra one day in the hall.

# What should you do?

- Do not ignore sexual harassment.
- Tell the person you do not like their behavior and ask them to stop. If you feel you can't tell them directly, write them a note.
- You need to tell your parents or guardians and/or tell a teacher, counselor or administrator at school.



# What should you do?



- Talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling. Friends, parents or guardians, siblings, a trusted teacher, counselor or administrator can be helpful and provide the support that you need.
- Tell your teacher, counselor or principal that you are being sexually harassed. If you are not comfortable doing this, your parents or guardians can do this.

The school has a legal responsibility  
to respond to sexual harassment of its students.

# Independent Practice:

- This is an activity that you will do with our parents or guardians. When you go home, tell them that we talked about the importance of talking to a trusted adult that can provide support and assistance in dealing with and reporting bullying and sexual harassment. Doing this activity with your parent or guardian will give you an opportunity to find out what they want you to do if these situations occur.



## Create an Anti-Bullying and Anti-Sexual Harassment Poster

- Have students answer the following questions:
  - What can you do to help a peer that is being bullied?
  - What can you do to help a peer who is being sexually harassed?
  - What steps should you take if you are bullied or sexually harassed?
  - Who can you go to in your family, school and community to report it and get help?

# Post-Test

1. What is sexual harassment?
2. What does “unwelcome” mean?
3. List 5 examples of sexual harassment.
4. What can you do if you think someone is being sexually harassed?

Closure:

You did a great job identifying the resources you could go to for assistance in reporting bullying and sexual harassment.