

STATES CAN END SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

STATES ARE LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Texas and New York have a statewide “amnesty policy” prohibiting schools from punishing survivors and witnesses for code-of-conduct violations (like underage drinking) related to an incident of gender-based violence. Amnesty policies encourage students to come forward, report assault, and seek help.

Illinois requires all schools to designate trained advisors who can assist survivors in accessing resources and accommodations, reporting violence, and learning their rights.

California requires comprehensive consent education and prevention training for students in grades 9 – 12.



Although one in five college women, as well as many men and gender-nonconforming students, experiences sexual violence during their time on campus, schools across the country have failed to give survivors the support they need to stay in school. When schools refuse to act, the effects of harassment and violence can force survivors to withdraw from classes, take a leave of absence, or drop out of school entirely.

Know Your IX, a national youth- and survivor-led campaign empowering students to end gender violence in schools, has outlined a **State Policy Playbook for Ending Campus Sexual Assault**, a series of key reforms that advocates and state policymakers can pursue to hold schools accountable, support survivors, and end gender-based violence in education:

Transparency

- The State Department of Education should develop a comprehensive, standardized campus climate survey that schools must administer every two years.
- Schools should gather and publish anonymized, aggregate data regarding reports of sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence on an annual basis.

Prevention

- Schools should educate community members on an ongoing basis about gender-based violence and their rights under school policy and relevant laws.
- All middle and high schoolers should receive age-appropriate, evidence-informed consent and healthy relationship training on an ongoing basis.

Safe and Confidential Reporting

- Schools should ensure that their resources are available to all students by designating Sexual Assault Response Coordinators who survivors can turn to for support accessing resources and navigating school disciplinary procedures.
- Schools should adopt “amnesty” policies to ensure survivors and witnesses who come forward to report gender-based violence aren’t punished for doing so.
- States should protect survivors’ privacy by expanding advocate privilege to school-based victims’ advocates.

Resources and Accommodations

- Schools should provide key accommodations (such as alternative dorm or dining arrangements) and resources to survivors free of charge.
- Institutions that lack appropriate on-campus resources should enter into a partnership with existing community-based organizations to provide students with counseling, health, victim advocacy, and legal assistance services.

Fair Disciplinary Procedures

- Schools should adopt and implement a “Survivor’s Bill of Rights.”
- Schools should ensure procedures are equitable for both survivors and accused students by adopting basic fair process protections for all parties involved in school disciplinary hearings.

Funding Safe Campuses

- States should establish a campus grant program and increase appropriations to victim service providers and state enforcement agencies.

Read the entire State Policy Playbook for Ending Campus Sexual Assault and learn how to support survivors in your state by visiting knowyourix.org/statepolicy-playbook.