



Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment Lesson

Grade 7



Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to understand what sexual and gender-based harassment behavior is and identify when it happens.
- Students will be able to understand the consequences associated with sexual and gender-based harassment behaviors.
- Students will be provided with clear steps to take if they or others are being harassed based on sex/gender.
- Students will be encouraged to report such harassment effectively when it occurs.
- Students will be able to identify and utilize safe strategies for bystander intervention among students, staff, and other adults.

Norms for Today

Today we will be discussing sexual and gender based harassment and this topic is serious and sensitive and it is possible that it may make someone uncomfortable.

To ensure everyone can fully participate, please remember to:

Use appropriate language

Be respectful of other's experiences and opinions.

Make only positive comments to others as they share

Raise your hand to share....

What comes to mind when you think of the word **harassment**?

What is an example of an action that may be considered harassment?



Definition

Harassment:

- to repeatedly tease, bother or annoy someone
- these actions are unwanted and unwelcomed
- these actions can be verbal, written or physical and can also be sexual or gender-based

Gender-based harassment is verbal, nonverbal, graphic, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostile conduct based on sex, sex-stereotyping, sexual orientation or gender identity

Example: Students make comments to a female student that “dresses like a boy”

Sexual harassment: is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Example: Sending or receiving a text message asking for inappropriate pictures of someone

Examples of the Types of Harassment

Verbal	Written	Physical
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-comments about body parts-sexual rumors-request for sexual favors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-sexual notes-sexual drawings-emails, text messages, chats-social media posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Touching-rubbing-pulling of clothes-gestures-grinding

Can you think of additional examples of each type?

Turn to a partner and share. Be prepared to share to the group.

Harassment is not targeted at one group.

Who can harass who?

Boys can harass girls

Girls can harass boys

Girls can harass girls

Boys can harass boys

Anyone can be harassed by anyone



Potential Consequence

In CMS Student Code of Conduct Handbook:

Rule 27. B. Sexual Harassment UB: Harassment-Sexual:

A student shall not engage in unwanted verbal or physical (e.g. gesturing) conduct of a sexual nature which may reasonably be regarded as intimidating, hostile or offensive. This includes the communication of (by digital or other means) or the intentional display of sexually explicit material. When it has been determined that students have violated rule 27, disciplinary consequences will be delivered as outlined in the CMS Student Code of Conduct handbook.

Harassment is determined by the “victim” not the person making the statement, action or writing.

It is important to understand everyone’s boundaries are different and we need to respect those differences.

Let’s look at an example....

Scenario #1	Scenario #2
<p>Courtney likes Landon and the feelings are not mutual.</p> <p>Courtney sends daily notes/text to Landon expressing adoration.</p> <p>This makes Landon uncomfortable. Landon has asked Courtney to stop sending love notes, Courtney continues.</p>	<p>Courtney likes Landon and the feelings are mutual.</p> <p>Courtney sends daily notes to Landon expressing adoration.</p> <p>Landon enjoys receiving the notes from Courtney. Landon looks forward to Courtney's notes.</p>

Which scenario is an example of an unwelcome or unwanted advance? How do you know?

What are the appropriate steps for if you or someone they know are being harassed?

- Tell the person to “Stop” unwanted behavior
- Attempt to leave/remove yourself from the situation and find a safe place
- Tell a trusted adult at your school (teacher, counselor, administrator, coach)
- Tell a trusted adult in your community (parent, adult family member, friend’s parent, troop leader, etc.)

Activity: Brainstorm

In groups of 2-3, discuss a list of possible trusted adults at school and in the community.

Include at least 5 people, even more is better!

What is a bystander?

Bystander: a person who is present at an event or incident but does not take part

Why is it important to report for a peer if I witness harassment?

- When you're a bystander it's important to know that by doing nothing you are sending a message to the person who is "the harasser" that their behavior is acceptable.
- The peer may be uncomfortable reporting the harassment
- You can report what you witnessed to a trusted adult and help a peer in need
- You can play a part in eliminating the harassing behaviors in your school/community

How do we know the difference between flirting (which is welcome and wanted) and harassment (which is unwelcome and unwanted)?

Share with a partner: What are examples of common flirting that you see or experience at school?

When does flirting become harassment?

Flirting	Harassment
Flirting is welcome attention.	Harassment is not wanted.
Flirting goes both ways.	Harassment is one-sided.
Flirting makes you feel in control.	Harassment makes you feel put down or ugly.
Flirting makes you feel good about yourself.	Harassment makes you feel powerless.
Flirting is legal in school.	Harassment is a violation of school rules.

What is sexting?

Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.



Is sexting sexual harassment?

Video About Sexting

As you watch Ally's story, answer and be prepared to discuss the following:

1. Ally says that sexting was “the biggest mistake of [her] life.” What do you think she means? Why does she regret it?
2. In this video how did gender play a role in sexting? What kind of pressure did boys feel related to sexting? What kind of pressure did girls feel?
3. If you heard that a peer was thinking of sending a naked picture, what could you say to try to convince that person not to send the photo?
4. Would it make a difference if someone sent a naked photo on an app such as Snapchat or if the receiver promised to delete it right away? Why, or why not?
5. What is meant by the comment “there is a thin line between private flirtation and public humiliation”?

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsfcN2HITS&t=10s&disable_polymer=true

*Be sure to login via your CMS google account to access this video.

What to know about Sexting?

- Images sent by mobile phone can easily fall into the wrong hands, and once posted online may never really go away.
- Sexting can lead to public humiliation, cyber-bullying, and/or sexual assault.
- Others may copy and post your images in other places where friends, parents, and teachers can see them.
- It is illegal to take sexual photos of minor and it is also a crime to pass them on.

THINK before you hit SEND!

How can you prevent sexting?

- Think about the consequences of taking, sending, or forwarding a sexual picture.
- Never take images of yourself that you wouldn't want everyone to see.
- Before hitting send, remember that you can't control where this image may travel.
- If a photo arrives on your phone, do not send it to anyone else!
- Report any sexting you receive to an adult you trust.
- Talk to your friends, sexting is against the law.

Activity #2

In groups select a topic you have learned today (Sexting, harassment, bystanders, etc.)

Choose a way to share what you have learned and to teach others the important definitions, facts, and what to do in response to/ in order to report the harassment

Option 1: Create a poster

Option 2: Create a song/poem/rap

Option 3: Create a technology (Powerpoint, Google Slides, etc.) representation of the information

Let's review what we've learned!

Terms

- **Harassment:** to repeatedly tease, bother or annoy someone. These actions are unwanted and unwelcomed.
- **Gender-based harassment:** verbal, nonverbal, graphic, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostile conduct based on sex, sex-stereotyping, sexual orientation or gender identity
- **Sexual harassment:** unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Steps to take if you or peer is being harassed:

- Tell the person to “Stop” unwanted behavior
- Attempt to leave/remove yourself from the situation and find a safe place
- Tell a trusted adult at your school (teacher, counselor, administrator, coach)
- Tell a trusted adult in your community (parent, adult family member, friend's parent, troop, leader, etc.)

Reach out to a trusted adult to take action if you have a serious personal concern or a concern for a peer.