



SCHOOL SAFETY CHECKLIST

School experiences can lead to many positive growth opportunities, but how can you keep kids safe and help prevent child sexual abuse?

Below are some guidelines your school can implement:

- Include the prevention of child sexual abuse at the top of your safety and security paradigm.
- Develop a [child protection policy](#) that provides clear guidelines like [limitations on one-on-one situations](#) and boundary expectations for adults.
- Communicate your child protection policy to all stakeholders including parents.
- Have a clear path for students who self-disclose or share concerns about classmates with trusted adults. Students need to [know the school](#) will take their concerns seriously and action will be taken.
- Implement a thorough hiring process including a background and reference check.
- Develop a relationship with local law enforcement, and know how issues of consent and actions between young people will be addressed.
- [Adopt a training & education program](#) for teachers, students, and families. Training teachers is vital in preventing child sexual abuse since over half of reported cases come from teachers, but most are not trained in preventing, recognizing and reacting to abuse.
- Remind teachers that they may be the only trusted adult in a child's life, so it's important to be prepared in case a child opens up to them. It may be helpful for teachers to [keep a script](#) or list on hand in their classroom that they can go to in a moment of crisis.
- Make sure staff is aware of school policies and minimizing one-on-one situations; these are critical elements of the program for educators
- Teachers are often unclear about their reporting requirements – Resource Sheets are key for clarifying mandated reporting. [Mandated reporter requirements](#) are often misunderstood, posing a great opportunity to provide clarity for teachers through discussion and on-hand reference materials.
- Taking the risk to report abuse may be a delicate issue with many educators, particularly in terms of the risk to their relationships with peers. Make sure teachers know that there are no repercussions for reporting, even reporting a suspicion. It's better to report and be wrong, then keep silent and be right.

To learn more about what you can do to protect your kids, visit d2l.org.