

A Lone Girl

The Scenario:

While hurrying to your next period, you notice five high school boys surrounding a girl who looks very nervous. You remove the girl from the circle and have her walk with you. She tells you that they do that all the time. They keep telling her how pretty she is and how big her breasts are. She is pretty shaken up. What do you do?

Discussion Begins

What do you do?

Do you report? If so, to whom? If so, when? If you don't, what might happen to the girl? To other students? To you? To your school? To LAUSD?

If you report and the Local Law Enforcement Agency or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) tells you...

...to **handle it administratively**, what do you do next?

...**they will investigate**, what do you do next?



Legal Response

Since the girl stated this happens “all the time” and she is “pretty shaken up” indicating the conduct is unwelcome (BUL-3349.0), you should notify an administrator and the Title IX Complaint Manager. Follow the steps in the Title IX Policy/Complaint Procedure Bulletin (BUL-2521.1) and Sexual Harassment Policy Bulletin (BUL-3349.0). Educational Equity can provide training in this area for both students and staff.

If you are an administrator, you should then notify the Local District Operations Coordinator. As appropriate, the Local District Operations Coordinators and/or Division of Human Resources Representatives shall consult with Employee Relations to determine whether they may begin an administrative investigation. Once clearance has been obtained, the administrative investigation shall proceed. If warranted, upon conclusion of the investigation, take appropriate disciplinary action (which might result in a mandatory recommendation for expulsion).

Other Considerations

If the girl reports physical contact of a sexual nature, you must file a Suspected Child Abuse Report with either the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Local Law Enforcement Agency.

Listen

While you may have a strong emotional reaction to observing this, convey your concern and interest in her well-being. Ask open-ended questions as needed and help her feel safe.

Protect

Act immediately by following the legal response. Doing so is the best way to protect students and promote a safe learning environment.

Connect

Ask about what would be most helpful at that time, with whom else she feels comfortable speaking, and let her know that there is staff who can help (i.e., psychiatric social worker, counselor, nurse, pupil services and attendance counselor, school psychologist).

Model

Maintain a professional and calm level of emotions and reactions. Do not express shock or anger at the possible perpetrator or event.

Teach

Teach her that no one has the right to touch her body without consent. Help her to understand that it is normal to have a confusing range of feelings as a result of experiences like these.

Emotional Support