

Student to Student

The Scenario:

Bob tells you that, while he was using the restroom, another student pushed him against the bathroom stall and began to touch him inappropriately. The other student also talked to Bob about different sex acts in which he wanted to engage. Bob can identify the other student. What do you do?

Discussion Begins

What do you do?

Do you report? If so, to whom? If so, when? Is there more than one victim here? If so, do you make one or two reports? If you don't, what might happen to Bob? To the suspected abuser? 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

Ask Bob to be specific about where he was touched (there's a big difference between touching a shoulder and touching genitalia). Only ask enough questions to determine if there is a reasonable suspicion that child abuse occurred. Assuming the student touched an intimate body part, given the accompanying conversation, a Suspected Child Abuse Report must be filed with either the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Local Law Enforcement Agency.

Other Considerations

You may also want to file another Suspected Child Abuse Report naming the perpetrator as a victim. The aggressive, sexual nature of the child's actions may provide reasonable suspicion that he is being or has been abused.

Additionally, you should notify an administrator of the inappropriate conduct. The administrator 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 and communicate with the Local Law Enforcement Agency to determine whether they may begin an administrative investigation. Once clearance has been obtained from the Local Law Enforcement Agency, the administrative investigation shall proceed.

Once given permission by the investigating agency to act, other administrative actions are necessary: Expulsion recommendation - for sexual battery (assuming touching of an intimate body part) and Sexual Harassment (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.

Listen

Listen carefully, pay attention, and convey your concern and interest in his well-being. Ask open-ended questions as needed to help him feel safe.

Protect

Act immediately by following the legal response. Let the student know that you take his disclosure seriously.

Connect

Ask Bob what would be most helpful to him at this time. Every school site has protocols, systems, and resources to support and address student safety and well-being. This is an opportunity to become familiar with and use the procedures, policies, and resources at your work site.

Model

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

Teach

Talk with Bob about the fact that no one has the right to touch him without his permission. Help him to understand that it is normal to have a confusing range of feelings as a result of experiences like this. Assure Bob that there are adults on campus to help him.

Emotional Support