

Having the Talk: Helping to Promote Healthy Relationships and Prevent Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in School

By Educational Development Services, LLC

Over the last several years, Harvard's Graduate School of Education, through their Making Caring Common Project have been studying high-school students and young adults to better understand attitudes and experiences related to sexual harassment and assault. In a recent national survey, 87% of females reported having experienced sexual harassment in school. Yet 76% of respondents had never engaged in a conversation with adults about how to avoid sexually harassing others, or about various forms of gender-based degradation. Rates of sexual assault are high, including on school property, yet there is little education provided to students about the many issues in consent and what constitutes assault. It is essential that adults engage with youth in meaningful education about sexual harassment, assault and what it means to be an ethical person. This workshop will:

- Review the latest research addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault in schools;
- Discuss the desensitization of youth to harassment and degrading behaviors, and how to reduce and prevent them;
- Look at the harassment and sexual bullying of LGBTQ youth;
- Outline the schools' legal role and responsibility in addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence against youth;
- Review resources and programs that specifically address the promotion of healthy relationships and the prevention of sexual harassment and assault.