

Sexual Harassment

HiTOPS Educator

Designed for: Males and females, grades 6-12

“I was just kidding.”
“Can’t she take a joke?”
“Why is this such a big deal anyway?”

Not only is sexual harassment against the law, it can be intimidating and frightening and can make a person’s environment, including school, intolerable. According to a national survey, 85% of girls and 76% of boys reported being sexually harassed in school. As a result, students have difficulty concentrating, avoid social interactions and sometimes refuse to go to school.

The goal of this two-part class is to help students become more assertive - to be clear about behaviors they don’t like and to appreciate the effect their behavior has on others. Students learn how to define sexual harassment and explore the differences between flirting and harassment. They look at different behaviors and place them on a continuum from “flirting” to “harassment” to “assault” and are given specific strategies for what to do if they or a friend are experiencing sexual harassment.

Our goals are to help students:

- Describe the differences between flirting, sexual harassment and assault
- Identify various behaviors that are viewed as harassment
- Examine their own behavior and increase their awareness and sensitivity to others
- Know what actions to take when sexual harassment occurs

Average length of program: Two 45 minute; 90 minutes

Recommended number of participants: 10-30