



CHILD PROTECTION BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOLS



Child protection should not depend on one adult recognizing danger or making the right decision. Schools need clear policies, safe reporting pathways, consistent supervision, and accountability for every employee, contractor, coach, volunteer, and leader.

CORE CHILD-PROTECTION SAFEGUARDS

1

Clear Boundaries

2

Safe Reporting

3

Screening and Supervision

4

Ongoing Training

5

Accountability and
Documentation

Trusted policy and prevention resources

1

U.S. Department of Education

[A Training Guide for Administrators and Educators on Addressing Adult Sexual Misconduct in the School Setting](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Professional boundaries and prohibited conduct
- Screening, references, and electronic communication
- Transportation and one on one interactions
- Reporting, investigations, retaliation, and staff transfer practices

2

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Serving Organizations](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Employee and volunteer screening
- Adult-student interaction guidelines
- Monitoring behavior and safer environments
- Response procedures and prevention training

3

U.S. Center for SafeSport

[2025 Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- One on one interactions
- Electronic communication and transportation
- Locker rooms, meetings, training, travel, lodging, and personal care

4

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

[Mandated Child Abuse and Neglect Reporters](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Reporter duties and when a report is required
- Reporting to child protective services or law enforcement
- Mandated reporter training

[2025 Wisconsin Act 89](#)

• Policy by Sept. 1, 2026; annual grooming/boundary training in 2026-27

[Report Child Abuse or Neglect in Wisconsin - county and tribal reporting contacts](#)

5

POST-GRADUATION CONDUCT AND FORMER STUDENTS

Examples below are from other jurisdictions and are included as policy models, not statements of Wisconsin law.

Michigan Department of Education

[Michigan Code of Educational Ethics](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Boundaries with students and former students
- Potential harm, public perception, and whether a relationship began while the person was a student

UK Department for Education

[Teacher Misconduct: The Prohibition of Teachers](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Misuse of position for romantic or sexual relationships
- Conduct involving pupils or former pupils
- Relationships arising from access, trust, or influence gained at school
- Failure to report evidence that a child may have been at risk

Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

[Disciplinary Tribunal Decision: Former Student](#)

VIEW SOURCE

- Recent former students and continuing power imbalances
- Whether contact began while the person was still a student
- Age, vulnerability, timing, and prior influence