

Grade 7

Identify power differences in relationships between potential abusers and their victims. 1d.7.10

Identify a source of support that a student can go to if they or someone they know is being sexually mistreated, groomed, harassed, abused, assaulted, or exploited. 1d.7.11

Analyze laws, policies, and consequences related to sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and **human trafficking** that are designed to protect young people. 1d.7.12

Grade 8

Identify situations including domestic violence where physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse occurs in a person’s family. 1d.8.11

Describe situations and behaviors that constitute sexual mistreatment grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and boundary violations. 1d.8.12

The Health Education Framework, as revised to comply with previous legislation, addresses abuse and assault prevention in a disproportionate manner. A robust group of educators, representatives from non-public agencies, and child abuse and assault prevention experts and advocates developed the framework. While the indicators for grades 6 and 8 do not explicitly include the words human trafficking, *sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and boundary violations* were selected by the committee to represent age-appropriate instruction on abuse, assault, and exploitation.

Since 2014, the Maryland General Assembly has enacted four State Education laws that have impacted Health Education in Maryland public schools. These laws have mandated instruction related to consent, opioids, sexual abuse and assault, and hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators. Health Education must be relevant as our world changes. Prioritizing statutory mandates rather than emergent health needs will limit the flexibility of health education programs to remain current and will negatively impact dedicated time for skill development.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 138**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.