



State of California
Office of the Attorney General

ROB BONTA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 22, 2026

TO: Higher Education Administrators, Educators, and Campus Safety Personnel, and to State and Local Law Enforcement

RE: Campus Safety and Sexual Assault

Recent sexual assault allegations and concerns regarding the protection of students on college and university campuses across the country have ignited important conversations here in California and nationwide.

There is no place in California for sexual assault – not on our campuses, and not in our communities. Unfortunately, research indicates that by the time students have completed four or more years in college, more than 20% of students will have experienced sexual assault.¹ More than half of the sexual assaults happen in the first months of the academic year and the majority of assaults go unreported.² Further, LGBTQ+ students, low-income students, students with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups face an elevated risk of sexual assault on campus.³

California colleges and universities are expected to address any instances of sexual assault in accordance with state and federal law. In order to help your institution comply with the law, the California Department of Justice is providing the following information about resources available to colleges and universities to help prevent and effectively and appropriately respond to sexual violence.

¹ Cantor et al., *Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct* (2020) p. 71 <<https://tinyurl.com/yydvzpah>> [as of Oct. 9, 2026].

² Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Rape and Sexual Victimization Among College-Aged Females, 1995-2013* (2014) <<https://tinyurl.com/puwj4rzh>> [as of Oct. 9, 2026].

³ Cantor et al., *AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct*; Beaulieu et al., *The impact of sexual orientation on college student victimization: An examination of sexual minority and non-sexual minority student populations* (2017) 8 *Psychology*, 1, 1728-1747 <<https://tinyurl.com/5yt6btn5>> [as of Oct. 9, 2026]; Mellins et al., *Sexual assault incidents among college undergraduates: Prevalence and factors associated with risk* (2017) 12 *PLoS ONE* 11 <<https://tinyurl.com/55xyfzt4>> [as of Oct. 9, 2026]; Nat'l Council on Disabilities, *Not on the Radar: Sexual Assault of College Students with Disabilities* (2018) <<https://tinyurl.com/44xn4z83>> [as of Oct. 9, 2026].

The Title IX Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) protects students against sexual harassment and discrimination, including sexual assault. Compliance with Title IX is crucial to combatting sexual violence on our college campuses and protecting our students.

In California, state laws also require colleges and universities to implement campus safety measures. Under state law, campuses must have policies and operational agreements in place to work with local law enforcement agencies on issues involving sexual assault, hate crimes, and violent crime. (Ed. Code, § 6781, et seq.) State law also protects against discrimination on the basis of gender identity. (Ed. Code, § 66270.)

- **Under state law, colleges, universities, and campus and local law enforcement have an independent, as well as a shared, obligation to respond to, investigate, and adjudicate reports of sexual violence. See this DOJ bulletin for information on these state law requirements:**
https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/law_enforcement/info-bulletin-dle-2015-1.pdf.
- **Colleges and universities should also be aware of more recent state law requirements related to sexual misconduct on campus:**
 - **Assembly Bill 1845** (2025-26 Reg. Sess.) [adding requirements for colleges and universities related to human trafficking];
 - **Assembly Bill 1928** (2025-26 Reg. Sess.) [permitting parties to be accompanied by both a support person and an advisor in the grievance process];
 - **Education Code, § 67385.7** [dissemination to students of educational and preventative information about sexual violence and sexual harassment and annual training for students];
 - **Senate Bill 493** (2019-20 Reg. Sess.) [providing procedural protections and obligations relating to campus complaints of sexual harassment].

The California Department of Justice also provides several resources for supporting the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, and for providing support for survivors of sexual assault, across our state, including on campus:

- **The California DOJ's website has extensive information to support educators, administrators, and law enforcement in redressing sexual assault incidents at** <https://oag.ca.gov/campus-sexual-assault>. As the laws continue to evolve in this area, we will continue to work with schools and law enforcement to ensure everyone has the tools needed to keep our students safe. Entities should consult with counsel to ensure that policies and practice comply with state and federal laws, and relevant best practices.
- **The California DOJ also has resources and publications available to support survivors of sexual assault:** The Victims' Services Unit of the California DOJ offers resources for crime victims and law enforcement at <https://oag.ca.gov/victimservices/resources>. These materials include a publication entitled "Your Rights as a Victim of Sexual Assault" along with other publications in both English and Spanish.

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It's up to all of us – campus administrators, local law enforcement, and college and university security officers – to work together to combat sexual violence on and off California's campuses and ensure support for survivors of sexual assault. Please do not hesitate to contact my office (campussafety@doj.ca.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



ROB BONTA
Attorney General