

Trauma-Informed Classrooms

Trauma-informed classrooms are learning environments that work to address the educational needs of students who have experienced sexual assault or other trauma.

Teachers and school staff are in a unique position to provide supportive responses to trauma and create healthy learning environments for all students.



The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) is here to help:

1. To speak with an advocate and learn more about KCSARC services, please call the 24-hour resource line at 1.888.99.VOICE
2. More information about KCSARC can also be found at www.kcsarc.org
3. To receive more information about educating on the topic of sexual assault, please reach out by email to education@kcsarc.org

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Educators can support students who have experienced sexual assault by:

- Believing the young person and offering support
- Clearly explaining their responsibilities as a mandated reporter both before and after a disclosure
- Working with the student to understand and address their safety concerns
- Having a system in place for students who need to miss class time
- Understanding the importance of confidentiality
- Offering resources for additional support

All teachers and school staff are mandated reporters, meaning they are required to report suspected abuse or neglect of a person under the age of 18 to CPS/Law Enforcement.^[i] To effectively support survivors through the mandated reporting process educators should:

- Inform students of their role as a mandated reporter
- Give students the opportunity to be present when a report is made
- Communicate with students throughout the reporting process
- Discuss any safety concerns students may have

Citation 1: RCW 26.44.030

Educators can create trauma-informed spaces for all students by:

- Setting clear expectations, boundaries, and establishing predictable routines
- Giving advanced notice of traumatic events that occur within class materials
- Providing resources that students can access independently
- Encouraging self care
- Leaving the door open