

Recognizing Grooming in Schools



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards (Learning Environments, Professional Learning and Ethical Practice, and Leadership and Collaboration), the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards (Teachers Demonstrate Leadership and Teachers Establish a Respectful Environment), and the Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning (Professional Expertise, Equity Foundations, and Leadership).

Designed for teachers, administrators, instructional aides, paraprofessionals, coaches, substitute teachers, school support staff, and other K-12 staff who work in schools.

This grooming training for teachers and school staff builds the skill of recognizing grooming behaviors early: how a person who grooms selects a vulnerable student, builds trust, creates secrecy, and tests boundaries, in person and online. Gain a clear understanding of the warning signs of grooming as well as professional boundaries for staff-student communication and how to report reasonable suspicion of child abuse.



Learn about Wisconsin's Grooming Laws

Teachers learn about state-specific grooming laws for educators.



2025 Wisconsin Act 89 asks schools to set clear expectations for how staff and students communicate, and to train staff to recognize grooming and professional boundary violations. It applies to schools across Wisconsin, public and private alike. This course addresses what the law asks and the steps schools must take to align with it.

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Course Outline

LESSON 1:

- Understanding why students are vulnerable to grooming
- Recognizing grooming and manipulation
- Identifying warning signs of isolation, secrecy, and boundary violations
- Understanding psychological harm caused by grooming
- Recognizing online grooming and digital communication risks
- Understanding the relationship between grooming, sexual abuse, and trafficking
- Teacher responsibilities as mandated reporters
- Creating a culture of protection through healthy professional boundaries
- Helping students recognize unsafe behaviors and trusted adults
- Practical reporting procedures and documentation

Assessment: 10 question quiz

LESSON 2:

- Identifying grooming under Wisconsin's grooming law and the behaviors it criminalizes
- Preventing grooming through professional boundaries and your school's required communication policy
- Understanding felony penalties, including the position of trust enhancement for educators
- Reporting with reasonable cause to suspect, directly to county child protection or law enforcement



Certificate of
Completion



100% Online



10 Question Quiz



1 Hour
of Learning



Convenient Access:
Start Right Away



Resources & Tools
Take your Learning Further