STATUTORY PROFILE

Rhode Island

School-Based Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Laws

Child sexual abuse is a serious, preventable public health issue. It happens in homes, schools and other places, but it can be prevented before it occurs. States and territories have applied a variety of legislative strategies to address the problem. To better understand what they are doing to prevent child sexual abuse, we collected and summarized relevant laws.

Here's what we found in Rhode Island as of 2025:

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

State laws intended to protect school children by educating them and/or the adults in their lives about the risks of sexual abuse and misconduct.

POLICY TYPE	STATUTE	DESCRIPTION
School Curriculum and Trainings	ADULTS No	**Not addressed** in state law.
	CHILDREN Yes	**Required** for students in grades K-8.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL POLICIES

State laws intended to create safe schools through hiring, dismissal and other personnel practices.

POLICY TYPE	STATUTE	DESCRIPTION
Hiring/Dismissal Policy	Yes	**Addressed** in state law.
Fingerprints	Yes	**Required** by state law.
Background Checks	CRIMINAL Yes	**Required** for teachers, licensed staff and non-licensed staff.
	MISCONDUCT No	**Not required** by state law.
	DISCIPLINARY No	**Not required** by state law.
Reference Checks	No	**Not required** by state law.
Licensure	No	License revocation for school sexual misconduct is **not addressed** in state law.

STANDARDS FOR CONDUCT

State laws that set minimum standards for adults' conduct in schools.

POLICY TYPE	STATUTE	DESCRIPTION
Code of Conduct/ Ethics	No	**Not required** by state law.

LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY

State laws criminalizing sexual contact by a person in a position of authority over youth to further ensure safety in schools and communities.

POLICY TYPE	STATUTE	DESCRIPTION
Position of Authority	No	Sexual contact between adults in a position of authority and youth is **not addressed** in state law.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next phase of this project will evaluate whether these laws reduce school-based child sexual abuse. Together, we can create safe school environments for children and prevent child sexual abuse. Visit Prevent Child Abuse America's project page at bit.ly/4byhfQV to learn more.

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