STATUTORY PROFILE

# West Virginia

## 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 West Virginia 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 Yes | **Required** for teachers, other school personnel and parents. |
| | CHILDREN Yes | **Required** for students in grades K-12. |

### 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 and 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 | Yes | License revocation for school sexual misconduct is **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 | Yes | Sexual contact between adults in a position of authority and youth is **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.

NCSL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Prevent Child Abuse America® Centering families through every turn.

ENOUGH ABUSE end child sexual abuse

*This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U01CE003408) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $1,480,751 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. government.*