

## **Teachers, Students, and Sex**

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Several recent news stories have reported teachers in middle and high schools have been having sex with their students. Such behavior is patently immoral, illegal, unprofessional, and raises serious school administration issues. One teacher has admitted to having sex and two children with one student whom she later married after her release from jail. Another two former teachers have been found having sex with several students within school property and at the teachers' and student's homes. These reported cases have numbered over twelve in the past two years; so this is not a severely limited situation. There are likely others that have not been reported and others currently going on. This is a crisis that needs immediate attention.

None of the cases exposed so far have resulted in long-term jail sentences; the woman who twice was arrested only served a total of seven years incarceration. I believe that if a man were arrested for raping two girls in school, he would rightly never be released from prison. This sex discrimination is deplorable; it horribly reflects on our value for the safety of children, our legal system, and our culture.

How can women form sexual relationships with 12-17 year old boys – many cases with multiple boys – and not be seen by peer teachers and administrators as acting inappropriately? Children act and talk differently when they are engaged in such activity. Properly trained and vigilant supervising adults should notice these signs. Teens cannot resist discussing and bragging about such liaisons and careful listening should uncover such behavior.

Teacher education curricula and annual school workshops need to be held to better instruct and alert would be and active teachers and counselors to such problems. Evening classes for parents also need to be instituted to inform parents of the warning signs that their children might be involved in dangerous and illegal behavior.

Failure to quickly and effectively address this problem will inevitably result in further erosion of trust in schools to protect our young people. Teens look to adults for guidance; sluffing this crime off as not urgent lends, in childrens' minds, an air of approval. This cannot be allowed to infect more schools; it must end!