

Creating the Opposite of Abuse

In an Abusive Situation	In an Abuse Prevention Organization
<p>One person has lots of power and the other(s) have little or none.</p>	<p>Power and decision making is shared among staff in different roles; power sharing between staff and students; leaders welcome challenges and accountability.</p>
<p>Person with power erodes trust gradually by violating people’s bodies and boundaries.</p>	<p>Official policies and organizational expectations enable staff and students to question and challenge more subtle violations.</p>
<p>Person with power harms others and touches their bodies in ways they don’t choose.</p>	<p>Students and staff are supported when they speak up about how they do and don’t want to be touched; getting explicit consent for touch is expected and valued.</p>
<p>Person with power goes unchallenged because the person being abused and others are afraid.</p>	<p>Students learn to protect and advocate for themselves and are supported when they do.</p> <p>Staff learns skills and gets support for challenging unsafe situations.</p>
<p>Abuse is kept a secret and not discussed.</p>	<p>Abuse is addressed regularly in ways that are similar to every other issue or challenge facing schools. Staff increase their comfort level addressing abuse.</p>