

NEW OUTLOOK ACADEMY

PREA Annual Report and Action Plan

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

New Outlook Academy has a zero tolerance policy concerning sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment of New Outlook Academy youth and is committed to the prevention and elimination of sexual abuse/assault within its facilities through compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. New Outlook Academy is committed to the equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse, assault and harassment.

In accordance with the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, New Outlook Academy makes available to the public on an annual basis aggregated data on incidents related to PREA, in addition to reporting to State and National databases, according to law.

DEFINITIONS

Incidents reported to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) annually are categorized and defined in the following areas:

- Youth on Youth Sexual Victimization
- Staff on Youth Sexual Abuse

Incidents are further broken down in each category according to the BJS definitions listed below:

Area	Term	BJS Definition
Youth on Youth Sexual Victimization	Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	Sexual contact of any person without their consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse AND Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; OR Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; OR Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.

	Abusive Sexual Contact	<p>Sexual contact of any person without their consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person.</p> <p>EXCLUDING incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation.</p>
	Sexual Harassment	<p>Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.</p>
Staff on Youth Sexual Abuse	Staff Sexual Misconduct	<p>Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (excluding family, friends or other visitors).</p> <p>Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and youth are included in this definition. Consensual or nonconsensual sexual acts include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; OR • Completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts; OR • Occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reason unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.

	Staff Sexual Harassment	<p>Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (exclude family, friends, or other visitors). Including demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.</p>
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Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), one of the following three options will be selected as the outcome of the investigation:

- **Substantiated:** The event was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated:** The investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- **Unfounded:** The investigation determined that the event did not occur.

For the calendar year of 2023, all New Outlook Academy PREA related incidents were investigated and determined to be **Unfounded**.

PREA AGGREGATED DATA

The data reviewed in this report is for the calendar year of 2023. All client identifiers or information that would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of the facility has been redacted from this report.

There was a total of one PREA allegation in 2023. The breakdown of 2023 incidents is on the chart below:

	Total Number Reported	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
Youth on Youth Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Sexual	0	0	0	3	0

Misconduct					
Staff Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	0

Corrective Action

As all of the PREA related incidents in 2023 were determined to be unfounded, meaning the investigation determined that the alleged act did not occur, no corrective action is needed.

New Outlook Academy continues to educate all students at intake about New Outlook Academy’s zero tolerance policy, along with their rights and responsibilities under PREA. Employees are also provided with initial and ongoing training on New Outlook Academy’s zero tolerance policy, reporting requirements and procedures under New Outlook Academy’s PREA policy, and their duties to ensure student safety at all times.

All critical incidents, regardless of whether they are related to PREA or not, are reported to New Outlook Academy’s licensing body, the Department of Human Services (DHS). Additionally, incidents related to PREA, other assaultive and abusive behavior of children, abuse or neglect, wandering & AWOL, elopement, suicide or attempted suicide, sentinel events and other incident about which there may be relevance in the judgment of the reporter, are to be reported immediately, as required by mandated reporters, at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us> or via phone (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313.

The information gathered and reported upon regarding Critical Incidents is used to improve the organization’s functioning and the quality of the services provided. Reports are issued at least quarterly to the administrative team regarding trends, risks, and opportunities for improvement. The information is also implemented into staff discussions, training, strategic planning, and other aspects of business as appropriate to improve the organization’s performance. Finally, the information is also used to review the implementation of the mission and goals of the organization.



Frank Wentzel, Executive Director
New Outlook Academy

