



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

*A NATIONAL VOICE FOR STATE
AND LOCAL ADVOCATES DEDICATED
TO ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE.*

April 24, 2015

NAESV Applauds New Title IX Guidance

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence commends the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights on its new guidance package on Title IX Coordinators. It is essential that school districts, colleges and universities have Title IX Coordinators and that these coordinators have the authority, independence, support and resources to do their job. We applaud the renewed focus on responding to sexual violence in the P-12 grades in addition to higher education.

State sexual assault coalitions and rape crisis centers see every day how widespread and devastating sexual assault is. The aftermath of rape can hamper both educational attainment and future employment for survivors. Survivors suffer high rates of PTSD, depression, and drug or alcohol abuse, which can hinder both their ability to succeed in school and future employment. At the same time, only a small percentage of these cases are reported, sanctioned, or prosecuted, allowing offenders, who will often have multiple victims, to go without punishment as well as creating an unsafe environment for students. This new guidance, rather than adding any new regulations, gives schools and Title IX coordinators more tools and resources to do their important work of ensuring all students have a safe and healthy learning environment.

Rape crisis centers have a critical role to play in helping school districts and campuses understand their responsibilities under Title IX; helping schools prevent and respond to sexual violence; and ensuring survivors receive the support that they need to heal and reach their goals.