

Wilco Area Career Center

Comprehensive Policy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence

(Adopted pursuant to 110 ILCS 155/10)

I. Purpose and Commitment

Wilco Area Career Center ("WACC") is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful educational environment, free from sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Consistent with the *Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 155/10)*, WACC adopts this comprehensive policy to ensure prevention, education, survivor protections, fair processes, and accountability.

II. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students, employees, contractors, volunteers, and visitors of WACC.
 - All conduct that occurs on campus, at school-sponsored activities, and off-campus conduct that may impact the WACC educational or work environment.
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III. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, WACC adopts the definitions contained in 110 ILCS 155/10 and related state/federal law, including:

- **Sexual Violence:** Any sexual act committed without consent, including sexual assault.
- **Consent:** A freely given, informed, and unambiguous agreement to participate in sexual activity. Consent cannot be given by minors, individuals incapacitated by drugs/alcohol, or those unable to understand the nature of the act.
- **Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking:** As defined by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act and the Violence Against Women Act.
- **Confidential Advisor:** A trained individual designated to provide emergency and ongoing support to survivors.

IV. Rights of Survivors

WACC ensures that survivors are provided with written notification of the following rights:

1. **To report or decline to report** an incident to law enforcement or campus security.
 2. **To request assistance** from WACC in contacting law enforcement.
 3. **To access confidential support** through on-campus or community resources.
 4. **To request reasonable accommodations** related to academics, employment, housing, or safety.
 5. **To a fair and impartial process**, with the right to present evidence, have an advisor, and receive timely updates.
 6. **To be free from retaliation** for reporting or participating in an investigation.
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V. Confidentiality and Privacy

- Survivors may speak with a **Confidential Advisor** without triggering a formal institutional response.
 - Responsible employees must promptly report incidents to the Title IX Coordinator.
 - WACC will protect the privacy of all parties to the extent possible under applicable law.
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VI. Reporting Options

- **Title IX Coordinator:** Alicia Cook, Assistant Director/Principal, 815-838-6941/acook@wilcoacc.org
 - **Campus Security:** Main Office 815-838-6941
 - **Local Law Enforcement:** 815-886-7219: 1050 W Romeo Rd, Romeoville, IL 60446
 - Anonymous reporting is available through the Wilco Bullying, Harassment & Threat Prevention Form.
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VII. Institutional Response and Procedures

When a report is received, WACC will:

1. **Provide written notification** of survivor rights, resources, and options.

2. **Offer interim protective measures**, including no-contact directives, schedule adjustments, and other safety accommodations.
 3. **Conduct a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation**, led by trained officials.
 4. **Use a preponderance of the evidence standard** in adjudication.
 5. **Provide equal rights** to complainant and respondent during disciplinary proceedings.
 6. **Issue written notice of outcomes** to both parties.
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VIII. Education, Training, and Prevention

WACC will implement comprehensive, annual prevention and awareness programming that includes:

- Primary prevention education for new students and employees.
 - Bystander intervention strategies.
 - Information on consent, healthy relationships, and reporting obligations.
 - Annual training for officials involved in investigating or resolving complaints.
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IX. Confidential Advisor Services

WACC will designate or partner with a **Confidential Advisor** to:

- Provide crisis intervention, advocacy, and ongoing support.
 - Inform survivors of rights and reporting options.
 - Assist with requests for accommodations.
 - Accompany survivors to meetings, disciplinary proceedings, or legal processes.
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X. Retaliation Prohibited

WACC strictly prohibits retaliation against any individual who makes a good-faith report, participates in an investigation, or supports another individual exercising their rights under this policy.

XI. Policy Review and Reporting

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with state and federal law.

- WACC will submit required reports to the Illinois Attorney General's Office as mandated by 110 ILCS 155/10.
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Effective Date: October 21, 2025

Approved by: Wilco Board of Control

Contact for Questions:

Dr. Alicia Cook: 815-838-6941 or acook@wilcoacc.org
