Key Definitions and Terms
Alleged Perpetrator
The person about whom a complaint of sexual violence is filed under a school’s grievance
procedures.
Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/
Bystander Intervention
The bystander intervention model focuses on helping community members understand and
become more sensitive to issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and
stalking by teaching prevention and interruption skills. The bystander role includes interrupting
situations that could lead to assault before it happens or during an incident; speaking out
against social norms that support sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and
stalking; and having skills to be an effective and supportive ally to survivors.
Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/

Clery Act
The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, otherwise
known as the Clery Act, is a federal law that requires institutions of higher education to provide current
and prospective students and employees, the public, and the Department with crime statistics and
information about campus crime prevention programs and policies. Among other crimes, the Clery Act
requires that colleges and universities report forcible sex offenses including sexual assault and rape. The
Clery Act was most recently amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.
Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/

Dating Violence
Threats or actual sexual or physical abuse in a dating relationship.
The Clery Act in Detail (n.d.). Retrieved from http://knowyourix.org/the

3

Sexual Assault
Rape (oral, anal or vaginal), fondling, incest, or statutory rape.

The Clery Act in Detail (n.d.). Retrieved from http://knowyourix.org/the-clery-act-in-detail/

Sexual Harassment
Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual violence. Sexual harassment includes
unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or
physical conduct of a sexual nature. A school violates Title IX when sexual harassment is
sufficiently serious that it creates a hostile environment and such harassment is encouraged,
tolerated, not adequately addressed, or ignored by its employees.

Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/

Sexual Violence
…refers to physical acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of
giving consent (e.g., due to the students’ age or sue of drugs or alchohol, or because an
intellectual or other disability prevents the students from having the capacity to give consent).
A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual
assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by
school employees, other students, or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of
sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

Questions and Answers on Title IX (April 29, 2014). Retrieved from www2.ed.gov/.../qa-201404-

4

Survivor
The terms “survivor” and “victim” are both used to describe individuals who have been raped
or sexually assaulted. Many of these individuals and the advocates who work with them have
come to prefer “survivor,” as they regard the term as more empowering. The term “victim,”
however, is still in widespread use in research studies and in the criminal justice context.

Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/

Title IX
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that protects people from
discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities which receive Federal financial
assistance. Title IX states that:"“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be
excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination
under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance". Title IX’s sex
discrimination prohibition protects against sexual harassment and sexual violence and extends
to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical
notions of masculinity or femininity. Other examples of the types of discrimination that are
covered under Title IX include the failure to provide equal opportunity in athletics;
discrimination in a school’s science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses and
programs; and discrimination based on pregnancy and parental status. OCR is a primary
authority for investigating alleged violations of Title IX in educational institutions because the
U.S. Department of Education gives financial assistance to virtually all educational institutions in
the country. Other agencies, such as DOJ, that give federal grants or assistance to an
educational institution, share authority for addressing alleged violations of Title IX in
educational institutions. If a school that receives the Department’s federal funds is found to
have violated Title IX and does not come into compliance voluntarily, OCR may initiate
proceedings to withdraw federal funding granted by the Department or refer the case to DOJ
for litigation.

Key Terms and Definitions (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.notalone.gov/students/

Title IX
No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be
denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or
activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

9 Things to Know About Title IX (n.d). Retrieved from http://knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-in-detail/

 A landmark federal civil right that prohibits sex discrimination in education. Title IX is
not just about sports; it is a prohibition against sex-based discrimination in education. It
addresses discrimination against pregnant and parenting students and women in STEM
(science, technology, engineering, and math) programs. It also addresses sexual
harassment, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence. Sexual violence includes
attempted or completed rape or sexual assault, as well as sexual harassment, stalking,

5

voyeurism, exhibitionism, verbal or physical sexuality-based threats or abuse, and
intimate partner violence.