
N.Y. school district blames students for being sexually abused

BY REECE T. WILLIAMS

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 5:02 PM



The Chappaqua School District is blaming students who claim a former drama teacher sexually abused them. (WESTCHESTER COUNTY DA)

An upscale, suburban New York school district is blaming four students who allege to have been sexually abused by a former drama teacher.

In [a court document](#) filed earlier this month, the Chappaqua School District attributed "injuries and damages" sustained by the students to their own "carelessness, recklessness and negligence," or, that of the former teacher, Christopher Schraufnagel.

The district also denied knowledge of "information sufficient to form a belief," of the student's allegations, before issuing, a cross-claim against Schraufnagel, who it said "will be wholly or partially responsible."

The claim came soon after [a lawsuit filed in May](#) by three students alleging that Schraufnagel "engaged in sexual acts" with students, according to [The Journal News](#).

ADVERTISING

Replay

⏪

On Friday, a fourth student sought to join the lawsuit, [alleging](#) that Schraufnagel "was drinking alcohol and intoxicated during teaching hours," asked the student "to engage in various sexual acts" and "to perform oral sex on him," The Journal News reported.

"There were requests of d--k pics," David Engelsher, who is representing the students, told the Daily News on Wednesday.



Christopher Schraufnagel was placed on paid leave in June 2015 and resigned a few months later. (WESTCHESTER COUNTY DA)

All of the students were 15 at the time alleged misconduct. Schraufnagel — who formerly taught speech and drama at Horace Greeley High School in Westchester County for 12 years — was placed on paid leave in June 2015, before resigning in September of the same year.

On Monday, Engelsher called the district's reply "a textbook example of simply throwing dreck against the wall and hoping something sticks," The Journal News reported.

"The community is in an uproar about this," he said. "People move to this neighborhood to be in this drama program. Now, people are moving out of this neighborhood."

Lawyers representing the school could not be reached for comment.

© 2016 New York Daily News