



# A breakdown of sexual abuse allegations, arrests and investigations at St. Helens School District

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**Multiple educators have been arrested, the district superintendent and high school principal are on paid administrated leave, and classes were canceled for three days as students protested.**

***Note:** This story involves sexual abuse. If you or someone you know may be a victim of sexual abuse, confidential support, information and advice are available at the [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#) by calling 800-656-4673. Text chat is also available [online](#).*

The St. Helens School District remains in a precarious position as allegations of child sexual abuse against teachers and related arrests have made many parents there question if school officials are adequately protecting students.

At a community meeting Friday, many parents called for widespread overhauls in the district, including resignations or recalls of school board members.

Turmoil in St. Helens began earlier this year and rapidly intensified in November as the scope of alleged abuse inside schools there became clearer.

Here are some key events that led to this current moment in the Columbia County district.

**Aug. 21, 2019**

Former St. Helens High School teacher Kyle Wroblewski is sentenced to more than four years in prison for grooming and sexually abusing a 17-year-old student identified as Jessica Doe. The charges originated in May 2018 and after more than a year of legal negotiations, Wroblewski opted to plead guilty to five counts of second-degree sexual abuse.

### **Oct. 29, 2019**

Doe [files a lawsuit](#) against the St. Helens School District, alleging that district officials were well aware that Wroblewski used his role as a track coach and social studies teacher to act inappropriately with underage female students before he repeatedly abused Doe in 2018. The lawsuit stated that St. Helens district Superintendent Scot Stockwell, among other top officials, had received information and heard rumors about Wroblewski's behavior as early as 2017. It also noted that Wroblewski's mistreatment of children may have started as early as 2005.

### **March 14, 2024**

After a yearslong legal battle, the St. Helens School District agrees to [pay out \\$3.5 million to Doe and her family](#) to settle the lawsuit related to Wroblewski. The payout was one of the largest ever, if not the largest, by an Oregon district for sexual abuse.

### **September 2024**

Former St. Helens High School student and TikTok creator Doug Weaver begins [posting videos on the social media platform](#) about the Wroblewski settlement. Weaver had previously posted about his concerns around communal showers for boys in sports at the school and had spoken about keeping minors safe from sexual abuse. Comments on Weaver's videos allege that other teachers in the St. Helens district have engaged in behavior similar to Wroblewski, and those comments reach law enforcement.

### **October 2024**

St. Helens police receive subpoenas for the St. Helens School District [seeking information about allegations of sexual abuse](#) noted in the comments to Weaver's videos. Law enforcement receives responsive records indicating students had complained about teachers, but those complaints had not previously reached the police.

### **Nov. 12, 2024**

Law enforcement arrest recently retired St. Helens High School [math instructor Mark Collins and choir director Eric Stearns](#). Indictments for the men allege that Collins touched the intimate areas of three students under the age of 18 between 2017 and 2023,

while Stearns was accused of inappropriately touching at least six different underage students between 2015 and 2024. Both men face charges of second-degree sexual abuse and plead not guilty to the crimes.

### **Nov. 14, 2024**

St. Helens High School students [walk out of their classes in protest](#). Demonstrators accuse school staff once again of brushing off allegations of abuse.

### **Nov. 15, 2024**

The school district cancels classes for all students and protests continue. Parents and students soon call on Superintendent Stockwell, the entire school board and high school Principal Katy Wagner to resign. At a school board meeting, the board [places Stockwell and Wagner on paid administrative leave](#). School board member Ryan Scholl also resigns.

### **Nov. 20, 2024**

OPB confirms with the Oregon Department of Human Services that the state agency had received [no reports from teachers or staff](#) at St. Helens between 2019 and 2023 about alleged sexual abuse at the high school. Teachers and other staff at schools are mandatory reporters, meaning that if they directly hear about abuse, they have to report it to DHS. The state agency also announces it is investigating Stockwell and Wagner for failing to ensure reports were made.

### **Nov. 21, 2024**

St. Helens police announced they are looking into a new complaint, this time involving a middle school teacher. The Department of Human Services also announces it has received complaints about two additional teachers it is attempting to verify. The Scappoose School District reveals that Collins had worked as a substitute teacher there in 2023 and 2024. A student in that district said they believed Collins may have watched pornography on an electronic device during a class. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek says she is [taking the allegations in the school district “very seriously”](#) and offers her condolences to the school community.

### **Nov. 22, 2024**

St. Helens Mayor-elect Jennifer Massey [hosts a town hall meeting](#). Dozens of parents and students gather to express anger and frustration that current school administration failed to protect the safety of students. By the end of the evening, parents openly discuss how to

collect enough signatures to recall current school board members. No one from the St. Helens district administration or school board attends the meeting.

### **Nov. 25, 2024**

The St. Helens school board [announces Steve Webb as interim superintendent](#). Webb, who previously served as superintendent for Vancouver Public Schools in Washington from 2008 to 2021, receives a 90-day contract. “Every student should feel safe, secure and supported in our schools,” Webb says during the virtual school board meeting announcing his appointment. “We must do significant work to begin rebuilding community relationships and trust.”

### **Nov. 26, 2024**

St. Helens High School Principal Katy Wagner is [charged for her role](#) in the sexual abuse scandal in the district. Wagner faces two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment, two counts of first-degree official misconduct, and two counts of second-degree official misconduct. Court documents allege that Wagner failed in her duty as a mandatory reporter to let officials know about allegations against Eric Stearns and Mark Collins.

### **Dec. 4, 2024**

The St. Helens School District [announces Charlotte Ellis as acting high school principal](#) following the arrest of Katy Wagner. Police arrested Wagner for allegedly failing to forward reports of sexual abuse. Ellis most recently worked for the Northwest Regional Education Service District.

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