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Instructor named in sex suit arrested on new charge.

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NEWARK, N.J. – A former college instructor named in a student's sexual harassment suit has been arrested in a separate case of alleged sexual assault.

Paul Slifer, who taught science at a Jewish high school in Essex County, was fired and then arrested three days later on charges he sexually assaulted a 16-year-old male student there.

Slifer also taught at Sussex County Community College, where a female student claimed in a lawsuit earlier last month that he attempted to flunk her because she rejected his advances.

Slifer is no longer employed at the Sussex two-year college, school spokeswoman Linda Nieman said.

In the lawsuit, a Sussex nursing student charged that in January 2001 Slifer sexually harassed her verbally and physically, and gave her prescription medication.

Slifer hugged and kissed her, and when she complained, he gave her a failing grade in anatomy and physiology, she claimed. After she protested to the school, the grade was changed to C-plus.

Authorities said they seized computers from Slifer's Livingston home and are investigating whether he victimized other students.

Slifer, 34, is accused of assaulting the boy over the last year and a half. He is charged with six counts of aggravated sexual assault, four counts of aggravated sexual contact and two counts of child endangerment.

He was arrested late last month and has been held at the Essex County Jail.

Rabbi Scot Berman, principal of the high school at Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston, said the school learned of the assault investigation four days later, and Slifer was immediately fired.

Berman said the school already had discussed the college student's lawsuit, which was filed Feb. 1. Slifer had denied the charges, Berman said.

Nevertheless, Berman said, "We started to gather information regarding that case. We put safeguards in our own school to ensure that his association with students would only be in the classroom and not alone with individual students."

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