

R 5519 DATING VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL

A. Definitions

1. “At school” means in a classroom, or anywhere on school property, school bus or school-related vehicle, at an official bus stop, or at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on school grounds.
2. “Dating partner” means any person involved in an intimate association with another individual that is primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious, or long-term.
3. “Dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

B. Procedures for Reporting Acts or Incidents of Dating Violence

1. School staff members (administrative staff, instructional staff, support staff, and volunteers) shall take all reasonable measures to prevent acts or incidents of teen dating violence and are required to report all acts or incidents of dating violence at school.
2. All acts or incidents of dating violence at school shall be reported to the Principal or designee.
 - a. This report should be made verbally as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the student’s school day when the staff member witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence at school.
 - b. A written report regarding the act or incident of dating violence at school should be submitted to the Principal or designee by the reporting staff member no later than one day after the staff member witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence at school.
3. These acts or incidents may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Witnessed or receipt of reliable information concerning acts or incidents that are characterized by physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse;
 - b. Digital or electronic acts or incidents of dating violence; and/or
 - c. Patterns of behavior which are threatening or controlling.



- C. Guidelines/Protocols for Responding to At-School Acts or Incidents of Dating Violence
1. Protocol for All School Staff Members - Any school staff member who witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence at school shall take the following steps:
 - a. Separate the victim from the aggressor;
 - b. Speak with the victim and the aggressor separately;
 - c. Speak with witnesses or bystanders separately;
 - d. Verbally report the act or incident to the Principal or designee no later than the end of the student's school day;
 - e. Prepare and submit a written report of the act or incident to the Principal or designee no later than one day after the act or incident occurred; and
 - f. Monitor the interactions of the victim and the aggressor with student safety being the priority.
 2. Protocol for Administrators/Administrative Investigation – The Principal or designee upon receiving a report of a dating violence act or incident at school shall take the following steps:
 - a. Separate the victim from the aggressor, if applicable;
 - b. Meet separately with the victim and the alleged aggressor;
 - c. Take written statements from the victim and alleged aggressor;
 - d. Review the victim's and alleged aggressor's written statements to ascertain an understanding of the act or incident. The administrator may ask questions of either individual for clarification;
 - e. Further investigate the act or incident by speaking with bystanders/witnesses of the act or incident. All statements obtained from bystanders/witnesses shall be written and documented, when possible;
 - f. The school administrator may make a determination to involve the school resource officer or law enforcement, if appropriate;



4. Protocol for Working with the Aggressor of an Act or Incident of Dating Violence at School – The Principal or designee shall implement the following procedures for dealing with the aggressor of a confirmed act or incident of dating violence at school:
 - a. Schedule a conference with the aggressor and their parents/guardians;
 - b. Give the aggressor the opportunity to respond in a written statement to the allegations and the outcome/determination of an act or incident of dating violence at school;
 - c. Alert the aggressor and their parents/guardians to both school and community-based support and counseling resources that are available;
 - d. Identify and implement counseling, intervention, and disciplinary methods that are consistent with school policy for acts or incidents of this nature;
 - e. Review the seriousness of any type of retaliation (verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, electronic/digital) toward the victim who reported the act or incident of dating violence. Address that consequences will be issued consistent with the school’s student code of conduct and procedures for any type of retaliation or intimidation toward the victim; and
 - f. Document all meetings and action plans that are discussed.

5. Protocol for the Documentation and Reporting of an Act or Incident of Dating Violence at School - School districts shall implement the following procedures for documenting and reporting acts or incidents of dating violence that occur at school:
 - a. Dating violence statements and investigations shall be kept in files separate from student academic and discipline records to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of confidential information.

 - b. Every act or incident of dating violence at school that is reported shall be documented in an appropriate manner. This documentation shall include all written statements, planning actions, consequences, and disciplinary measures as well as counseling and other support resources that were offered, prescribed, and/or provided to the victim or the aggressor.



- D. Discipline Procedures Specific to At School Acts or Incidents of Dating Violence
1. The Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement discipline and remedial procedures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school that are consistent with the school's student code of conduct.
 2. The policies and procedures specific to acts or incidents of dating violence at school should be used to address the act or incident as well as serve as remediation, intervention, education, and prevention for all individuals involved.
 3. The responses shall be tiered with consideration given to the seriousness and number of previous occurrences of acts or incidents in which both the victim and alleged aggressor have been involved.
 4. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Admonishment;
 - b. Temporary removal from the classroom;
 - c. Classroom or administrative detention;
 - d. In-school suspension;
 - e. Out-of-school suspension;
 - f. Reports to law enforcement; and
 - g. Expulsion.
 5. Retaliation toward the victim of any act or incident of dating violence shall be considered when administering consequences to the aggressor based on the severity of the act or incident.
 6. Remedial procedures/interventions may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Parent conferences;
 - b. Student counseling (all students involved in the act or incident);



- c. Peer support group;
- d. Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experiences;
- e. Supportive student intervention (Intervention and Referral Services - I&RS);
- f. Behavioral management plan; and
- g. Alternative placements.

E. Warning Signs of Dating Violence

1. A pattern of behaviors may be an important sign that a student is involved in an unhealthy or abusive dating relationship. Many warning signs make a connection to one student in the relationship asserting control and power over the other. Recognizing one or more signs of teen dating violence plays an important role in preventing, educating, and intervening in acts or incidents of dating violence.
2. The warning signs listed below are to educate the school community on the characteristics a student in an unhealthy or abusive relationship might exhibit. Warning signs may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Name-calling and putdowns - Does one student in the relationship use name-calling or putdowns to belittle or intimidate the other student?
 - b. Extreme jealousy - Does one student in the relationship appear jealous when the other talks with peers?
 - c. Making excuses - Does one student in the relationship make excuses for the other?
 - d. Canceling or changing plans - Does one student cancel plans often, and at the last minute? Do the reasons make sense or sound untrue?
 - e. Monitoring - Does one student call, text, or check up on the other student constantly? Does one student demand to know the other's whereabouts or plans?
 - f. Uncontrolled anger – Does one of the students in the relationship lose his or her temper or throw and break things in anger?



REGULATION

FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS
R 5519/page 7 of 7
Dating Violence at School

- g. Isolation - Has one student in the relationship given up spending time with family and friends? Has the student stopped participating in activities that were once very important?
 - h. Dramatic changes - Has the appearance of the student in the relationships changed? Has the student in the relationship lost or gained weight? Does the student seem depressed?
 - i. Injuries - Does the student in the relationship have unexplained injuries? Does the student give explanations that seem untrue?
 - j. Quick Progression - Did the student's relationship get serious very quickly?
- F. The Principal or designee will provide to the parents/guardians of a victim or aggressor information on safe, appropriate school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence.

Adopted: 21 July 2016

