

### TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

All students have the right to a safe learning environment. The Board of Education strictly prohibits any act of teen dating violence committed by one student against another on school property, during a school-sponsored activity, or during school-sponsored transportation.

#### **Teen Dating Violence Defined**

For purposes of this policy, teen dating violence shall be defined as either of the following:

- A. A pattern of behavior in which a person uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are thirteen (13) to nineteen (19) years of age; or
- B. Behavior by which a person uses or threatens to use sexual violence against another person who is in a dating relationship with the person, where one or both persons are thirteen (13) to nineteen (19) years of age.

Teen dating violence may also include abuse, harassment, and stalking via electronic devices such as cell phones and computers, as well as harassment through a third party.

#### **Reporting Acts of Dating Violence**

Any student who is the victim of an act of teen dating violence, or has cause to believe that s/he is in immediate danger of becoming the victim of an act of teen dating violence should report the matter to the Principal or to any member of the school staff.

Any District employee who receives a report of an act of teen dating violence, who directly observes an act of teen dating violence perpetrated by one student against another, or who has reason to believe that a student is a victim of teen dating violence shall report such information, observations, or suspicions to the Principal.

Any resident of the community or other member of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, who observes an act of teen dating violence perpetrated by one student against another, or who has reason to believe that a student is a victim of teen dating violence, is encouraged to report the matter to the Principal. These reports can be made either in person or anonymously.

### **Investigating Reports of Teen Dating Violence**

Upon receiving a report of alleged teen dating violence, the Principal shall conduct an investigation of the allegation promptly. As part of the investigation, the Principal shall contact the parent(s) of the alleged victim and/or the parent(s) of the alleged perpetrator, if they are under the age of eighteen (18), to inform them of the report.

The investigation of the report should include interviews of the alleged victim, the individual accused of perpetrating the dating violence and abusive behavior, and any other person who may have witnessed the alleged act or who may reasonably be expected to have information relevant to the situation. All interviewed parties and witnesses will be provided an opportunity to present any evidence that they reasonably believe to be relevant to the situation.

The Board reserves the right to investigate a report of teen dating violence regardless of whether the student who is allegedly the victim of the teen dating violence wants to pursue the matter.

### **Consequences**

At the conclusion of the investigation the Principals will determine whether or not the allegation of teen dating violence was substantiated. If the Principal determines that a student has committed an act of teen dating violence, that violation of this policy shall result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, which may include suspension, assignment to another school or program, or recommendation for expulsion. All disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with State law and applicable Board policy. (See Policy 5600) When imposing discipline, the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved, shall be considered.

Further, the Department of Children and Family Services shall be notified if the student who is found to have perpetrated the act of teen dating violence is eighteen (18) years of age or older and the student who was the victim of the act of teen dating violence is a minor.

In those cases where teen dating violence is not substantiated, the Principal may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct or other Board policies.

### **Support and Reasonable Accommodations**

If requested during or after the investigation, the Principal shall make reasonable accommodations for the student who is allegedly experiencing teen dating violence including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Stay Away Contract, that is, a contract with the alleged perpetrator to stay away from the victim while on school grounds, on school transportation, and during school-sponsored programs and events
- B. class schedule change
- C. protection that will enable safe egress/regress from school, as well as movement within the school, and
- D. referrals for outside support or counseling

Students should provide the Principal with a copy of any order of protection that has been issued by the court in this matter. The Principal shall then contact the student whose behavior is to be regulated by that order of protection and initiate a Stay Away Contract that is consistent with the terms of that order and provides penalties for known violations of the contract. Further, the Principal shall notify law enforcement immediately if s/he knows or has reason to believe that a criminal or civil restraining order has been violated.

The School Resource Officer shall respond immediately to a report of a violation of a criminal or civil restraining order.

### **Other Violations of the Dating Violence Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging teen dating violence, or who has participated as a witness in an investigation of such an allegation
- B. filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of teen dating violence
- C. disregarding, failing to investigate, or delaying investigation of allegations of teen dating violence, when responsibility for reporting and investigating allegations of teen dating violence comprises part of one's supervisory duties

### **Privacy/Confidentiality**

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

### **Education and Training**

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of teen dating violence. The Superintendent shall require that the District's comprehensive health curriculum, which is set in Policy 2413, in grades 7-12 include a component about teen dating violence that is age-appropriate and includes the content required by State law.

Further, the Superintendent shall provide appropriate training to all members of the school District staff related to teen dating violence, and the implementation of this policy. The Superintendent shall notify students and parents of this policy by including it in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #304**

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