



DATING VIOLENCE POLICY

DATING VIOLENCE

The Lincoln Parish School System strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the schools to maintain a school climate in which dating violence is not tolerated and to promptly address dating violence when it is reported or observed.

DEFINITION

DATING VIOLENCE is the use of abusive behaviors, including, but not limited to, Internet, electronic, written, verbal, sexual or physical contact by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate or control a current or former dating partner, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. Dating violence may be an isolated incident or a repeated course of conduct. Dating violence includes but is not limited to:

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- **Physical Abuse:** Any intentional unwanted contact with the victim's body by either the perpetrator or an object within the perpetrator's control, regardless of whether such contact causes pain or injuries to the victim.
 - **Emotional Abuse:** The intentional infliction of mental or emotional distress by threat, coercion, stalking, humiliation, harassment, or other unwanted verbal or nonverbal conduct.
 - **Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual behavior or contact by the perpetrator that is unwanted by the victim and/or interferes with the victim's ability to consent to or control the circumstances of sexual behavior.
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WARNING SIGNS

Being able to tell the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships can be more difficult than you would think. No two relationships are the same, so what's **unhealthy** in one relationship may be **abusive** in another. Although there are many signs to pay attention to in a relationship, look for these common warning signs of dating abuse:

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- Checking cell phones, emails or social networks without permission
 - Hacking into cell phones, emails, or social networks in order to defame or embarrass
 - Extreme jealousy or insecurity
 - Constant belittling or put-downs
 - Explosive temper
 - Isolation from family and friends
 - Making false accusations
 - Erratic mood swings
 - Physically inflicting pain or hurt in any way
 - Possessiveness
 - Telling someone what to do
 - Repeatedly pressuring someone to have sex

RESPONSE

State law mandates that teachers and other school employees report suspected incidences of dating violence to the Principal and the Designated Student Assistance team in the school. The team shall investigate, research, and determine if further action is warranted. The team may consider making a referral to the Lincoln Parish Therapeutic Services Program, the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's department, or other appropriate community agencies.

DATING VIOLENCE - A SUMMARY

Good relationships are a vital part of life. A person's well-being is greatly determined by the initial relationship a child has with his/her parents and family. For the most part, school will provide the next set of relationships that a child will encounter. Educators are constantly engaged in helping their student's foster good relationships with each other. When children become adolescents, relationships with their peers dominate their life. Because bad relationships can be counterproductive to good mental health, it is so important for parents, students, teachers, and the community to be aware of signs that may reveal when someone is struggling in a bad relationship. Please review the data on dating violence so that we may all help our children develop good, healthy, and positive relationships in their lives.

Additional Resources

- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Teen Dating Violence This site provides an overview of teen dating violence and additional resources from the CDC.
 - *Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month [Podcast]
 - *Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month This site is a collaborative effort to promote February as Teen
 - *DV Month by serving as a clearing-house for all related activities.
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- *Teen Violence Awareness Month Blog