

Related Entries: (Not identified at this time)

### Teen Dating Violence or Abuse

It is the policy of the School District of Lee County that all of its students have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from dating violence or abuse of any kind. The district will not tolerate any form of teen dating violence or abuse as defined in Section 1 of this policy.

Consistent with the intent and requirements of Section 1006.148, Florida Statutes, the School District of Lee County prohibits dating violence by any student: on school property; during any school related or school sponsored program or activity; or during school sponsored transportation.

- (1) **Teen Dating Violence or Abuse** is defined as a pattern of emotional, verbal, sexual, or physical abuse used by one person in a current or past dating relationship to exert power and control over another when one or both of the partners is a teenager. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, stalking, threats, and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive partner uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner. This may also include abuse, harassment, and stalking via electronic devices such as cell phones and computers, and harassment through a third party, and may be physical, mental, or both.
- (2) **Reports of alleged acts of teen dating violence or abuse** should be made to the principal or principal's designee. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy. If the reporter suspects that the alleged violation of this policy constitutes a crime, the reporter will immediately report the complaint to law enforcement. All members of the school community, including students, parents, guardians, volunteers and visitors are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy.
- (3) **A prompt investigation of any allegation will take place** by the principal or principal's designee. If the investigation concludes that the allegation is founded, the perpetrator will incur consequences consistent with the School District's *Code of Conduct for Students*.
- (4) **Instruction regarding dating violence or abuse** will be provided for students in Grades 7 – 12 as one of the comprehensive health components as listed in Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes. This instruction shall have an emphasis on prevention based education and include a teen dating violence or abuse component that includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating violence or abuse, the warning signs of dating violence or abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy

45 relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence or abuse, and  
46 community resources available to victims of dating violence or abuse.

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49 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 1001.42, 1001.43, 1003.42 and 1006.148, F.S.

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51 Adopted: 1/11/10