

Regulation

DATING VIOLENCE

The Shore Regional High School Board of Education policy and procedure are created in alignment with the New Jersey Statutory Requirement: N.J.S.A. 18A:37-35.

Statement of Purpose

The Shore Regional High School Board of Education has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary to learn. Acts or incidents of dating violence whether they are verbal, sexual, physical or emotional will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to school district policies and the Shore Regional student code of conduct.

Reporting Procedures

All acts or incidents of dating violence shall be reported immediately to a school staff member (administration, guidance counselor, teacher, student assistance counselor, school nurse, instructional staff, support staff). All school staff members should take all reasonable measures to prevent acts of incidents of teen dating violence. This will then be reported verbally to the vice principal by the end of the student's school day. A written report regarding the act of incident of dating violence should be submitted to the vice principal by the reporting staff member no later than one day after the act of incident occurs. Staff is required to report all acts or incidents of dating violence which can include:

- A. Witnessed or reliable information concerning acts or incidents that are characterized by physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse;
- B. Digital or electronic acts of incidents or dating violence;
- C. Patterns of behavior which are threatening or controlling.

Procedures

A. Protocol for staff members

Any school staff member who witnesses or learns of an act or incident of dating violence is required to take the following steps:

1. Separate the victim from the aggressor;
2. Speak with the victim and the aggressor separately;
3. Speak with witnesses or bystanders separately;
4. Inform the principal, or his or her designee of the act or incident;
5. Prepare a written report of the incident for principal, or his or her designee;
6. Monitor the interactions of the victim and the aggressor. Student safety should be the priority.

B. Protocol for administrators

Any school administrator who witnesses or learns of an act of dating violence is required to take the following steps:

1. Separate the victim from the aggressor;
2. Meet separately with the victim and the aggressor;
3. Take written statements from the victim and alleged aggressor;

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4. Review the victim's and aggressor's written statements to ascertain an understanding of the act or incident. Questions may be asked of either individual for clarification;
5. Further investigate the incident by speaking with bystanders/witnesses of the act or incident. All statements should be documented;
6. The school administrator should make the determination to involve the school resource officer or police department;
7. After an assessment by a school social worker, counselor or psychologist a determination is made that the victim or aggressor's mental health has been placed at risk appropriate referrals should be made;
8. Contact should be made with the parents/guardians of both the victim and the aggressor. A recommendation of a meeting should be made to discuss the act or incident with the principal, or his or her designee;
9. Schools must notify both parties in writing of the outcome of the investigation into the act or incident of dating violence.

C. Protocol for working with the victim of an act or incident of dating violence

Administrators shall consider the following methods for dealing with victims of dating violence:

1. Student safety should be the first priority. Interaction between the victim and the alleged aggressor should be avoided. The burden of any schedule changes (classroom, bus etc.) should be taken on by the alleged aggressor;
2. Schedule a conference with the victim and their parents/guardians;
3. Identify any means or actions that should be taken to increase the victim's safety and ability to learn in a safe and civil school environment;
4. Alert the victim and their parents/guardians of school and community based resources that may be appropriate, including their right to file charges, if the act or incident violated the law;
5. Monitor the victim's safety as needed. Assist the victim with any plans needed for the school day and after school hours (e.g. hallway safety, coordination with parents/guardians for transportation to and from school). An individualized safety plan may be developed if deemed necessary;
6. Discuss a school approved Stay- Away Agreement between the victim and the alleged aggressor;
7. Encourage the victim to self-report any and all further acts and incidents of dating violence that occur at-school in writing to the principal, or his or her designee. See Appendix C for examples and additional resources.
8. Document all meetings and action plans that are discussed

D. Protocol for working with the alleged aggressor of an act or incident of dating violence

Administrators shall consider the following methods for dealing with the alleged aggressor in act or incidents of dating violence:

1. Schedule a conference with the aggressor and their parents/guardians;
2. Give the alleged aggressor the opportunity to respond in a written statement to the allegations of an act or incident of dating violence at-school;
3. Alert the alleged aggressor and their parents/guardians, to both school and community based support and counseling resources that are available;
4. Identify and implement counseling, intervention and disciplinary methods that are consistent with school policy for acts or incidents of this nature;
5. Review the seriousness of any type of retaliation (verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, electronic/digital) towards the victim who reported the act or incident of dating violence. Address that consequences would be issued consistent with the school's student code of conduct and procedures for any type of retaliation or intimidation towards the victim;
6. Document all meetings and action plans that are discussed.

E. Protocol for the documentation and reporting of an act or incident of dating violence:

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School staff reporting dating violence shall document all acts or incident of dating violence according to the following procedures:

1. All incidents of dating violence will be investigated and documented;
2. Dating violence statements and investigations will be kept in files separate from student academic and discipline records;
3. Every act or incident of dating violence at school that is reported should be documented in an appropriate manner. This will include statements, planning actions, disciplinary measures as well as counseling and other support resources that are offered and prescribed to the victim or alleged aggressor.

Discipline Procedures

The Shore Regional School District Board of Education requires its school administrators to implement discipline and remedial procedures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school. These policies and procedures are consistent with the school's student code of conduct. 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. The responses will be tiered with consideration given to the seriousness and the number of previous occurrences of acts or incidents in which both the victim and alleged aggressor have been involved.

The consequences and remedial measures listed below are examples and may be expanded upon:

A. Consequences¹:

1. Admonishment;
2. Temporary removal from the classroom;
3. Classroom or administrative detention;
4. In-school suspension;
5. Out-of-school suspension;
6. Reports to law enforcement;
7. Expulsion

Note: Retaliation towards the victim of any act or incident of dating violence should be considered when administering consequences to the alleged aggressor based on the severity of the act or incident.

B. Remediation/Intervention²:

1. Parent conferences;
2. Student counseling (all students involved in a the act or incident);
3. Peer support group;
4. Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experiences;
5. Supportive student intervention (I&RS);
6. Behavioral management plan;
7. Alternative placements.

Warning Signs/Statistics of Dating Violence

A pattern of behaviors may be an important sign that a student is involved in an unhealthy or abusive dating relationship. These warning signs outline the characteristics that a student in an unhealthy or abusive relationship might exhibit.

A. Warning signs³ may include but are not be limited to the following:

¹ Adapted from *A Guide to Preventing Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence*, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008.

² Adapted from *A Model Policy and Guidance for Prohibiting Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying on School Property, at School Sponsored Function and on School Buses*, New Jersey Department of Education, April 2011.

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1. Name calling and put downs – Does one student in the relationship use name calling or putdowns to belittle or intimidate the other student?
2. Extreme jealousy – Does one student in the relationship appear jealous when the other talks with peers?
3. Making excuses – Does one student in the relationship make excuses for the other?
4. Canceling or changing plans – Does one student cancel plans often, and at the last minute? Do the reasons make sense or sound untrue?
5. 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?
6. Uncontrolled Anger – Have you seen one of the students in the relationship lose his or her temper or throw and break things in anger?
7. 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?
8. Dramatic Changes – Has the student in the relationships appearance changed? Lost or gained weight? Does the student seem depressed?
9. Injuries – Does the student in the relationship have unexplained injuries? Does the student give explanations that seem untrue?
10. Quick Progression – Did the student's relationship get serious very quickly?

B. Statistics:

1. Victims of alleged aggressors of teen dating violence are more likely to bring a weapon to school;⁴
2. Victims of teen dating violence have lower academic achievement and grades of D and F;⁵
3. 5% of girls reported missing at least one day of school a month due to safety concerns;⁶
4. 43% of teen dating violence victims report that the dating violence experience occurred in a school building or on school grounds;⁷
5. 8.3% of the acts or incidents of dating violence that occurred at school was physical abuse.⁸

Many of these 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 shaping a policy to prevent, educate and intervene in acts or incidents of dating violence.

Additional Information and Available Resources

The following agencies and resources are designed to assist students and their families in the prevention, education, and treatment regarding acts or incidents of dating violence.

Statewide

New Jersey Domestic Violence Programs by County

<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dov/resources/countyresourcesdv.html>

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women

Programs and counseling for domestic and dating violence.

24 Hour Helpline: (800) 572-SAFE

Northern New Jersey

³ Adapted from *A Guide to Preventing Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence*, Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008.

⁴ Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center, 2003-2004 California Student Survey, Brief 4.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Surveillance Summaries*, May 21, 2004, MMWS 2002:53 (No. SS-2).

⁷⁻⁸ Christian Molidor, Richard V. Tolman, Gender and Contextual Factors in Adolescent Violence, *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (1998): 180-94.

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Bergen County:

Alternatives to Domestic Violence
24 Hour Hotline: (201) 336-7575

Essex County:

The Rachel Coalition c/o Jewish Family Service
Responding to domestic violence
24 Hour Emergency Paging Service: (973) 740-1233
E-mail: Rachel@jfsmetrowest.org
Web: www.rachelcoalition.org

Morris County:

Jersey Battered Women's Services, Inc. (JBWS)
24 Hour Hotline: (973) 267-4763
Fax: (973) 605-5898
Email: info@jbws.org
Web: www.jbws.org

Sussex County:

Domestic Abuse Services, Inc.
24 hour Hotline: (973) 875-1211
Email: info@dasi.org
Web: www.dasi.org

Warren County:

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center (DASACC)
24 Hour Hotline: (908) 453-4181
Toll free: (866) 6BE-SAFE [623-7233]
Web: www.besafenj.org/

Central New Jersey

Mercer County:

Womanspace, Inc.
24 Hour Hotline: (609) 394-9000
State Hotline: (800) 572-SAFE [7233]
Email: pmh@womanspace.org
Web: www.womanspace.org

Middlesex County:

Women Aware, Inc.
24 Hour Hotline: (732) 249-4504
Email: womenaware@aol.com
Web: www.womenaware.net

Monmouth County:

180 Turning Lives Around
Domestic violence and sexual assault agency
24 Hour Hotline: (732) 264-4111
Toll free: 1-888-THE-WCMC [843-9262]
Email: info@180nj.org
Web: www.180nj.org

Ocean County:

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Providence House - Ocean
24 Hour Hotline: (732) 244-8259
Toll free: 1-800-246-8910 (from the "609" area code only)
Web: www.catholiccharities.org

Somerset County

Resource Center of Somerset
24 Hour Hotline (toll free): 1-866-685-1122
Web: www.resourcecenterofsomerset.org

Southern New Jersey

Atlantic County:

Atlantic County Women's Center Violence Intervention Program (VIP)
24 Hour Toll free Hotline: (800) 286-4184
Web: www.acwc.org

Camden County:

Camden County Women's Center
Domestic and dating violence services for all women
24 Hour Hotline: (856) 227-1234
Web: <http://www.camdencountywomenscenter.org/>

Camden County:

Jewish Family and Children Services
Domestic Abuse Program S.A.R.A.H.
Phone: (856) 424-1333
Web: <http://www.jfcssnj.org/programs-and-services/Counseling/Domestic-Abuse-Program-Project-SARAH>

Cape May County:

CARA, Inc. (Coalition Against Rape and Abuse, Inc.)
24 Hour Hotline: (609) 522-6489
Toll free: 1-877-294-CARA [2272]
Email: carasafe1@verizon.net
Web: www.cara-cmc.org

Cumberland County

Center for Family Services
24 Hour Hotline: (800) 225-0196
Web: www.centerffs.org

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