

1.13 TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

A. Statement prohibiting dating violence and abuse

It is the policy of the School Board of Clay County, Florida, that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from dating violence and abuse of any kind. The district will not tolerate dating violence and abuse of any type. The school district upholds that dating violence or abuse by any student is prohibited:

1. On school property;
2. During any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity; or
3. During school-sponsored transportation.

B. Definition of dating violence and abuse

Dating violence is 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. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, 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. As defined herein, said dating violence or abuse must occur in a setting set forth above or must impact or disrupt the educational setting.

C. Procedure for reporting an act of dating violence and abuse

All school employees are required to report suspected cases of dating violence and alleged violations of this policy to the principal or the principal's designee. All other members of the school community, including students, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and visitors are encouraged to report any act that may be in violation of this policy anonymously or in-person to the principal or principal's designee as soon as possible after it occurs.

The victim of dating violence or abuse, anyone who witnessed an act of dating violence or abuse, and anyone who has credible information that an act of dating violence and abuse has taken place may file a report on dating violence or abuse. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of dating violence or abuse will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, learning or working environment, or work assignments.

Any written or oral reporting of an act of dating violence and abuse shall be considered sufficient means of reporting such act(s). Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

D. Procedure for investigation and disciplinary action of a report of dating violence.

The school principal or designee shall immediately conduct a thorough investigation of allegations of dating violence or abuse in a substantially similar manner as is used to investigate sexual harassment and/or bullying. Disciplinary investigation procedures shall be followed. If the principal or designee determines that a student is guilty of dating violence or abuse, said student shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Suspected criminal conduct shall be reported to law enforcement.

E. Procedure for enforcing restraining orders.

Students or parent/guardian should inform the School or the district that an order of protection has been issued. The designee will contact the abuser and his/her parents to advise them of the effect of the order on in school student interaction. The principal or district administrator will notify law enforcement immediately if they have a reasonable belief that a criminal or civil restraining order has been violated. The school administration will respond immediately to a report of a violation of a criminal or a civil restraining order.

F. Procedure to provide support services and reasonable accommodations to the victim.

The school or the district will provide a victim of dating violence and abuse with the following, based on the circumstances:

1. Reasonable accommodations, such as class schedule changes.
2. Security protection, such as safe egress/regress from school and within the school.
3. Timely and comprehensive investigation of dating violence and abuse complaints.
4. Referrals for outside support and/or counseling.

G. Procedure for training teachers, staff and school administrators in the identification, investigation, and intervention of dating violence and abuse incidents that occur at or impact the school.

Teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and other employees shall be provided training in the areas of the proper identification, investigation, and intervention of dating violence or abuse incidents that fall within the jurisdiction of the school.

Students, parents/legal guardians, teachers, and school volunteers shall be provided information at a minimum on an annual basis on the district's Policy and Procedures against dating violence and abuse. The information shall include evidence-based methods of preventing dating violence and abuse, as well as how to effectively identify and respond to dating violence and abuse incidents within the scope of the school.

H. Procedure for providing instruction to students in comprehensive health education including a teen dating violence or abuse component:

The Clay County School District health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include a component on teen dating violence and abuse with emphasis on prevention based education.