



March 4, 2014

Re: Teen Dating Violence

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about a new Illinois law that was passed related to teen dating violence. The law requires all Illinois school districts to adopt a school board policy incorporating age-appropriate education about teen dating violence for students in grades 7 through 12. The District 62 Board of Education will be adopting a teen dating violence policy in April 2014.

In our District, teen-dating violence is unacceptable. We are committed to providing our students with a school environment where they can learn free from worries about school violence. Research has shown that teen dating violence can inform lifelong, unhealthy habits during young adults' formative years. Educating parents/guardians, students, and staff about teen dating violence can help us identify incidents of teen dating violence at school or school-related activities. The new law states that *teen dating violence* occurs whenever a student uses or threatens to use physical, mental or emotional abuse to control an individual in a dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive age-appropriate instruction on teen dating violence including its warning signs and prevention. School staff will also receive training on handling the signs and incidents of teen dating violence. District 62 school staff members have been asked to respond immediately with compassion to a student who reports teen dating violence. After evaluating the situation to determine the type of follow up that is warranted, a staff member will give the student a District form used to report bullying in order to document the incident.

Finally, staff members have been requested to intervene immediately to stop incidents of teen dating violence occurring at school. They will proceed under our District's procedures for responding to incidences of bullying and school violence.

Below are some warning signs that your child may be involved in teen dating violence:

- Name-calling and put-downs. Does one individual in the relationship call the other person names? Does he or she use insults to put the other person down?
- Extreme jealousy. Does one individual in the relationship act incredibly jealous when the other talks to peers? Does one person accuse the other of flirting even when it's innocent conversation?

**Community Consolidated  
School District 62**

Dr. Jane L. Westerhold, *Superintendent*

777 East Algonquin Road

Des Plaines, Illinois 60016-6281

T 847-824-1136 ✉ F 847-824-0612

www.d62.org



- Making excuses. Does one individual in the relationships make excuses for the other? Does he or she have to apologize for the other person's behavior?
- Canceling or changing plans. Does one individual cancel plans often, and at the last minute? Do the reasons make sense or sound untrue?
- Monitoring. Does one person call, text message, or check up on the other constantly? Does he or she demand to know the other person's plans or with whom the other person was with at all times?
- Uncontrolled anger. Have you seen one individual lose his or her temper? Does he or she throw things, or break things, when angry? Does one person in the relationship worry about upsetting the other?
- Isolation. Has one individual in the relationships given up spending time with friends? Has that individual stopped doing activities that used to be important?
- Dramatic changes. Have either of the individuals in the relationship had appearance changes? Has he or she lost or gained weight? Have his or her grades dropped? Does he or she seem depressed?
- Injuries. Does one person in the relationship have unexplained injuries, or does he or she give explanations that don't make sense?
- Quick progression. Did the relationship get serious very quickly?

These signs do not necessarily mean that your child is involved in teen dating violence, but if present, talk to your child about teen dating violence.

For more information about this issue, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's educational materials at:

[www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen\\_dating\\_violence.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html)

Please contact your building principal directly should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Westerhold  
Superintendent

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