

## **DATING VIOLENCE**

The Old Tappan Board of Education believes that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary to learn. Acts or incidents of dating violence that occur in school, whether they are verbal, sexual, physical or emotional shall not be tolerated and shall be dealt with according to the district's code of conduct.

### **Definitions**

- A. "In school" means in a classroom or anywhere on school property, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on school grounds.
- B. "Dating partner" means any person involved in an intimate association with another individual that is primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious, or long-term.
- C. "Dating violence" means a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

### **Reporting Dating Violence That Occurs At School**

Staff is required to report to the principal/designee all acts or incidents of dating violence that occur or are observable at school. The report shall be made verbally as soon as possible but not later than the end of school day and a written report shall be made to the principal/designee no later than one day later.

### **Discipline**

The Old Tappan Board of Education shall require the administrators to implement discipline and remedial procedures, consistent with the school's student code of conduct, to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school. The 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 should 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.

### **Education**

Dating violence education that is age appropriate shall be incorporated into the district's health curriculum for grades 7 and 8 as part of the implementation of the Core Curriculum Standards. In addition, the warning signs of dating violence shall be included in the procedures for this policy to educate the school community on the characteristics that a student in an unhealthy or abusive relationship might exhibit.

### **Dating Violence That Occurs Outside The School**

The parents/guardians of minor pupils that are believed to be involved in a dating violence relationship outside of school shall be contacted and the parents/guardians, adult pupils and minor pupils shall receive information and referrals on handling the situation.

**DATING VIOLENCE (continued)**

**Notice Of The Policy**

Notice of this policy shall appear in any district publication that sets forth comprehensive conduct rules and procedures and in any district handbook.

**Procedures**

The superintendent shall develop procedures and protocols for responding to in- school incidents of dating violence, investigating the incidents, disciplining pupils where appropriate and reporting the incidents. The procedures shall also include the warning signs of dating violence and information on safe appropriate school, family, peer and community resources available to address dating violence.

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.23a	Dating violence education
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:37-33-37	Dating violence policy

**Cross References:**

5131*	Conduct
5131.1	Sexual Harassment
5131.2*	Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
6141.4*	Physical Education and Health

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

**Key Words**

Dating Violence

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