

Barrington Public Schools Policy on School Response to Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence

Teen dating violence and sexual violence are prohibited in Barrington Public Schools (BPS). The purpose of this policy is to:

- Raise school-wide awareness about teen dating violence and sexual violence;
- Provide direction in responding to incidents; and
- Prevent new incidents of dating violence, and sexual violence.

For more detailed information relating to school-based intervention, working with student-victims and alleged student-perpetrators, documenting incidents, and the creation of a safety plan, please refer to the Protocol for Responding to Reports of Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence, available at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dFdeCzKxA8TSY8jT1C9HHEiLLO4NB29iB3HOxl3fk5w/edit?usp=sharing>

A. RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

BPS is committed to creating a school environment that promotes timely and fair adjudication of teen dating violence and sexual violence reports. This policy includes guidelines to protect the rights and privacy of the victim as well as the due process rights of the alleged perpetrator.

B. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility of Students

The victim of dating violence or sexual violence, witnesses/bystanders to such actions, or anyone who has information that these actions have occurred may file a report or complaint of dating violence or sexual violence to the Assistant Superintendent, school administrator, or trusted adult staff member.

Responsibility of the Assistant Superintendent, Administrator or Designee:

Investigation of all Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence Reports

The Assistant Superintendent, administrator or designee shall investigate all allegations of dating violence and sexual violence. If the allegation is supported by the outcome of an investigation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions, subject to appropriate due process procedures, will be imposed. The investigation will include an assessment of what effect the dating violence and/or sexual violence has had on the victim. In addition, the investigation may result in referral to a medical professional, law enforcement, or domestic violence advocate.

Creation of Individualized School Safety Plan

When a student discloses dating violence and/or sexual violence, the Assistant Superintendent, school administrator, or designee shall work with the victim, the alleged

perpetrator, their respective parents/guardians, appropriate staff, and possibly a domestic violence advocate to create an individualized safety plan.

Responsibility of School Staff

School staff shall take all reasonable measures to prevent teen dating violence and sexual violence. All school staff who witness, hear of, or have reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place are obligated to report incidents according to this policy. In this context, the staff includes volunteers working in the school. Failure of any school staff member to follow these procedures will result in consequences consistent with BPS' existing policies for non-compliance.

DCYF Reporting

Rhode Island General Law [§40-11-3](#) requires that any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child has been a victim of sexual abuse by another child shall, within twenty-four hours Rhode Island General Law [§40-11-2](#), provide that information to the Department of Children, Youth and Families, or its agent, who or which shall immediately forward the report to the state police and local law enforcement, and shall initiate an investigation of the allegations of abuse. As a result of those reports and referrals, BPS shall refer those children to appropriate services and support systems in order to provide for their health and welfare. As a result of these reports and referrals, protective social services will be made available to those students in an effort to safeguard their welfare and provide a means to prevent further abuse.

C. INVESTIGATION

The Assistant Superintendent, administrator or designee shall be responsible for the investigation of all dating violence and sexual violence reports. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary sanctions subject to due process procedures shall be imposed.

D. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Disciplinary sanctions for dating violence or sexual violence may include, but are not limited to, loss of privilege to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics and school social events, loss of school bus transportation, assignment of community service, and suspension from school. (See BPS Suspension Policy.)

RI General Laws [§40-11-3](#) and [§40-11-2](#)

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