

## CHAPTER 5.00 - STUDENTS

### DATING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

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It is the policy of the St. Johns County School District that all of its students have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from dating violence and abuse. The District shall not tolerate dating violence and abuse of any kind. Dating violence or abuse by any student is prohibited on school property, during any school related or school sponsored program or activity, or during school sponsored transportation.

1. Definitions:

- a. Dating violence is a pattern of emotional, verbal, sexual, or physical abuse used by one person in a current or past intimate relationship to exert power and control over another when one or both of the partners is a student.
- b. Abuse is mistreatment which 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.

2. Reporting Dating Violence or Abuse. School employees shall report to the principal or designee suspected cases of dating violence and abuse. Students should report suspected cases of dating violence and abuse to the principal or designee and may do so anonymously. Student victims should report any incidences of dating violence and abuse to the principal or designee as soon after it occurs as possible.

3. Investigation:

- a. The principal or designee will conduct an investigation. If the principal or designee determines that inappropriate behaviors have occurred on school property, the principal or designee will make a determination if disciplinary action is warranted as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and take the necessary action.
- b. The highest level of confidentiality possible will be upheld regarding the submission of a complaint or a report of dating violence and/or abuse and the investigative procedures that follow.
- c. If a crime has been committed, the appropriate law enforcement agency shall be notified.

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4. Accommodation. Appropriate accommodations will be provided to victims of dating violence and abuse.
5. Curriculum:
  - a. The health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include dating violence and abuse. The dating violence and abuse component shall include, but is not limited to the definition of dating violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources available to victims of dating violence and abuse.
  - b. The curriculum shall have an emphasis on prevention-based education.
6. Training. Training on the District's policy prohibiting dating violence and abuse and related procedures will be provided.
7. Procedures and Guidelines. The Superintendent is authorized to adopt procedures and guidelines to implement this policy.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.**

**LAWS IMPLEMENTED:**

**1000.21, 1001.43, 1003.42,  
1006.07, 1006.148, F.S.**

**HISTORY:**

**ADOPTED: 06/14/2011**