

Students

SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL ASSAULT & DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Every student has the right to live free of physical and emotional abuse, including neglect, sexual assault, and dating violence. The Board recognizes that such abuse has severe consequences for the student, sometimes resulting in the student's own violent behavior or in substance abuse. The District shall provide a comprehensive program of health and safety that educates students and teachers regarding the recognition and avoidance of sexual abuse and dating violence and includes parents in prevention and intervention services.

A. Training for Teachers and Administrators

1. The District will provide awareness training and education for the school community that includes the following:
 - a. Defining the issues of teen dating, violence and sexual violence;
 - b. Recognizing warning signs, identifying issues of confidentiality and safety;
 - c. The laws pertaining to interpersonal violence; and
 - d. Appropriate school-based interventions.
2. These trainings will be organized to reach all members of the school community, including students, educators, parents/guardians, administrators and custodial and food service staff.
3. When available, these trainings will be facilitated by a school staff person and a representative from a community agency that serves victims of domestic and sexual violence, such as a victim advocate.
4. Schools will provide training to educators on methods of teaching the dynamics of power and control in dating relationships, as well as strategies for effectively teaching teen dating violence prevention curriculum agencies in their local community who serve victims of domestic and sexual violence. Educators will also receive information on the barriers teenagers face in ending abusive relationships, and information on resources from which teenagers can seek help and services for themselves and for others.
5. Schools will provide annual workshops for school administrators, teachers, health educators, school nurses and other staff, at which

school incidents will be addressed, as well as training on how to intervene in an appropriate and consistent way. In order to respect the privacy of students, hypothetical facts or actual scenarios absent of identifying information should be used.

B. Counseling for Students who are Victims and Students who are Perpetrators

1. Schools should ensure that the victim and alleged perpetrator have access to support services when needed.
2. Schools may refer the victim and alleged perpetrator to a school counselor as appropriate.
 - a. Counselors may provide interventions themselves or contract when possible with advocates from local domestic violence or rape crisis centers to provide school-based services such as school-based support groups.
3. Schools will access resources in the community that are available for teaching and supporting positive student behaviors and responding to the needs of students who have been hurt by violence or abuse or who have begun to use hurtful behaviors toward others.
 - a. An alleged perpetrator may be referred to batterer's counseling or another program with a focus on controlling behaviors.
4. Schools will make reasonable accommodations for victims of teen dating violence and sexual violence (e.g., excusing a student from school when the absence is due to teen dating violence or sexual violence).

C. Awareness Education for Students

1. Schools will teach ongoing curriculum or educational presentations to students on teen dating violence, sexual violence and acquaintance rape prevention. The curriculum may include:
 - a. Defining abuse, including rape, in teen dating relationships and methods to recognize abuse;
 - b. Identifying societal expectations of males and females that contribute to violence and abuse;
 - c. Examining the role of the media in supporting sex role stereotypes and how these stereotypes, if believed, create conditions for abuse and violence;
 - d. Exploring how teens can help themselves or a friend, including where to find legal, medical, and mental health services; and
 - e. Defining healthy and respectful behavior and relationships.

2. In addition to curriculum sessions, schools should provide peer training programs, special seminars, video or theater presentations combined with discussion groups, or workshops.
3. School systems should also incorporate dating and sexual violence education that is age appropriate into annual health curriculum for students in grades 7-12.
4. Students will be informed of community and District resources.

D. Awareness Education for Parents/Guardians

1. Schools should offer annual parent/guardian workshops to educate parents/guardians on the issues of teen dating violence and sexual violence.
2. The workshops may cover topics such as recognizing the warning signs of dating violence in teens and pre-teens, what parents/guardians can do to help their teens learn how to have safe and healthy relationships, and the realities and dynamics of sexual violence.
3. Schools may also develop other strategies, like cable access shows and written materials that are sent home with students, in order to reach parents/guardians who do not regularly attend school events.
4. Schools should provide parents/guardians and the community at large with information on where they can go for help if their child is a victim, and what they can do to address the issues of teen dating violence and sexual violence.
5. Each school district will inform students' parents/guardians of the district's dating violence and sexual violence policy.

E. Modeling Respectful Behavior

1. Schools must emphasize the role of school personnel in prevention of teen dating violence and sexual violence through leading by example.
2. All school personnel will model respectful behavior and promote gender equality and mutual respect among all members of the school community.
3. School personnel must respond to bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence and sexual violence immediately and in a manner consistent with the district's policy.

F. District-Wide Code of Conduct

1. In working to prevent teen dating violence and sexual violence, schools should communicate their behavioral expectations to students and staff. Schools should adopt a code of conduct that complies with District policies. The code of conduct may include the following provisions:
 - a. No person shall engage in any verbal, sexual or physical conduct that would tend to cause disruption of the educational setting or school activity, or would harass, threaten, attack, injure or intimidate any other person.
 - b. All persons on school property or attending any school activity shall be treated with respect.
 - c. All students are encouraged to seek help from school personnel if they are hurt, threatened or otherwise harassed by another student or staff member.
 - d. Students who witness or are aware of incidents or threats are encouraged to prevent harm by speaking up on behalf of the victim when it is safe to do so or by getting help from school personnel.

G. Voluntary Participation

A student may be excused from participation in the District's awareness and prevention programs upon the written request of a parent/guardian, or of the student if the student is 18 years or older, or legally emancipated.

H. Child Abuse and Neglect

The Superintendent shall provide coordinated training for teachers who will use the child abuse prevention curriculum, including instruction in the physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, crisis counseling techniques, community resources, rights and responsibilities to report abuse or neglect, and care for a child's needs after a report is made.

(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)

(cf. 5141.4 – Child Abuse and Neglect)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.30.355 *Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention*

14.30.356 *Dating Violence & Abuse Policy, Training, Awareness, Prevention & Notices*

14.30.360 *Curriculum (Health and Safety Education)*

47.14.300 *Multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams*

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:

4 AAC 06.045 *Training Required*

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Adoption Date:

DRAFT