

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Prohibition Against Teen Dating Violence Policy for Students**

1. **Prohibition:** Teen Dating Violence is prohibited in the Bristol Warren Regional School District per R.I.G. L. 16-85-2, also known as the Lindsay Ann Burke Act.
2. **Policy Purpose:**
  - Raise school-wide awareness about teen dating violence and sexual violence
  - Provide direction in responding to incidents
  - Discourage new incidents of teen dating violence and sexual violence
3. **Definition of Teen Dating Violence:** A pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner.
4. **Definition of Sexual Assault:** Behaviors that are attempted or perpetuated against a victim's will or when a victim cannot consent because of age, disability, or the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sexual assault may involve actual or threatened physical force, use of weapons, coercion, intimidation, or pressure and may include:
  - Intentional touching of someone in ways that are unwanted
  - Voyeurism
  - Exposure to exhibitionism
  - Undesired exposure to pornography
  - Public display of images that were taken in a private context or when the victim was unaware
5. **Definition of Dating Partner:** Any person involved in an intimate association with another primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious or long-term
6. **At School:** In the context of these regulations the phrase "at school" includes the following places and situations:
  - In a classroom
  - Elsewhere in the school
  - On school property
  - Immediately adjacent to school property
  - On a school bus or other school vehicle
  - At school bus stops
  - While students are walking to or from school

- At any school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not held on school premises
7. **Reporting Responsibilities:** The Principal of each school (6-12) in the Bristol Warren Regional School District shall establish, and prominently publicize to students, staff, volunteers and parents how a report of dating violence may be filed and how this report will be acted upon. The victim of dating violence, anyone who witnessed these aforementioned behaviors, and anyone who has credible information that an act of dating violence has occurred may file a report.
  8. **Victim Rights and Protection:** The Bristol Warren Regional School District is committed to creating a campus environment that promotes timely and fair adjudication of dating violence and sexual violence cases. Principals shall establish guidelines to protect the rights and privacy of the victim as well as the due process rights of the alleged perpetrator.
  9. **Responsibility of Staff:** School staff shall take all reasonable measures to prevent dating violence and shall report all acts of the aforementioned behaviors that come to their attention. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. In this context the staff includes volunteers working in the school.
  10. **Responsibility of Students:** Students who observe an act of dating violence or who have reasonable ground to believe that this behavior is taking place have a responsibility to report the dating violence to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. However, the victim of dating violence shall not be subject to discipline for failing to report these behaviors.
  11. **Investigating Incidents of Dating Violence:** The principal, or designee, shall develop procedures and guidelines for the investigation of dating violence and sexual harassment. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary sanctions, subject to due process procedures, shall be imposed. The investigation will include an assessment of what effect the dating violence has had on the victim.
  12. **Disciplinary Sanctions:** Disciplinary sanctions for dating violence or sexual violence may include loss of privilege to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics and school social events, loss of school bus transportation, assignment of community service or suspension from school.
  13. **Police Notification:** Whenever dating violence or sexual violence involves conduct that violates criminal law, the police shall be notified.

- 14. Instruction and Prevention:** Students and staff shall be given instruction in the District Policy and Regulations against dating violence and sexual violence. This instruction shall include methods of discouraging and preventing dating violence, along with instruction in how to file a complaint against these behaviors, and the disciplinary action that may be taken against those who commit such acts.

The Bristol Warren Regional School District will provide dating violence training to all administrators, teachers, nurses, and mental health staff at the middle and high school levels. The dating violence training shall include, but not be limited to, basic principles of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the District's Policy and Regulations prohibiting dating violence. Training will be provided annually to all newly hired staff that the administration deems appropriate.

Students in grades 7-12 will be provided dating violence education that is age-appropriate through the framework of the health curriculum.

- 15. Help for the Victim or Those Reporting Dating Violence or Sexual Violence:** If the mental health of the aforementioned has been placed at risk as determined by a certified health support staff member, appropriate referrals will be made. If the dating violence included a criminal offense, the victim will be informed of any school transfer rights he or she may have under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act.

- 16. Prohibition against Retaliation:** Retaliation or threats of retaliation in any form designed to intimidate the victim, those who are witnesses to dating violence or those who are investigating an incident of these behaviors shall not be tolerated. In most cases retaliation or threat of retaliation will result in the imposition of a short or long term suspension and, in appropriate cases, referral to the police (RIGL 11-42-2) Extortion and blackmail (RIGL 59-2) Stalking prohibited.

- 17. Prohibition against False Reports of Dating Violence:** False reports concerning dating violence will be subject to appropriate school discipline, including short or long term suspension from school.

- 18. Individualized School Safety Plan:** If a student is the victim of serious or persistent dating violence, the principal of the school will prepare a written school safety plan outlining what steps will be taken to provide the student with a safe educational environment. This plan will be developed, if possible, with input from the parents of the student. Staff members who are to implement the plan will help to formulate it.

**19. School Atmosphere:** At all times school staff will model correct and courteous behavior to each other, to students, and to visitors to the school. Abusive or humiliating language or demeanor will not be tolerated. An effort will be made to ensure that each student is well known by at least one certified teacher so that the student will have someone to turn to at school if a dating violence situation develops.

**20. Reports:** School principal in grades 6-12 will provide the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee with a semi-annual report on incidents of dating violence which have taken place in the middle school and high school under their respective supervision. This report will include a statement describing the remedial action that has been taken to address these behaviors.

The Bristol Warren Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color disability or sexual orientation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

ADOPTED: May 13, 2013

LEGAL REF: R.I.G.L. 16-21-30

Bristol Warren Regional School District, Bristol, RI 02809