



Prevention at the Partnership: Adolescent Dating Abuse School Policy

Adolescent dating abuse affects one in four youth each year¹. This type of trauma has long-term consequences for students' well-being, safety, and academic performance. At the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership), we believe youth deserve better—and that laying a foundation for healthy relationships at this crucial time will result in a future free from domestic violence.

Schools have an important responsibility to give students the skills they need to succeed in the classroom and in life. In order to enact meaningful change at the institutional level, we're promoting school policies and institutional practices which support healthy relationships and prevent adolescent dating abuse.

The three core components of our adolescent dating abuse school policy project are:

➤ Building Coalitions

Addressing adolescent dating abuse will take a broad coalition of education, youth development, health, and dating abuse experts. We've brought together a Leadership Team of state-level stakeholders to provide guidance as we plan, implement, and evaluate our collective work to end adolescent dating abuse.

➤ Informing Policy

When schools recognize the importance of addressing adolescent dating abuse, they need the information and tools to implement local policy change. Working with our Leadership Team, the Partnership is developing a range of policy resources for school boards and education leaders, school site personnel, and other school-based organizations.

➤ Strategic Communications

We recognize that messages matter, and effectively communicating about the issue of healthy relationships, adolescent dating abuse, and the role of schools is essential to creating change. We are working to develop strong messaging that will resonate with policymakers and increase the number of articles on the topic in traditional media and targeted education publications. We're also communicating about adolescent dating abuse through social media and the Partnership's blog, expanding our reach to diverse audiences.

Together, with support from community members, domestic violence advocates and school leadership, we can prevent teen dating violence.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships. <http://1.usa.gov/1u3fOmf>.

How We Advance Change in California



The Partnership is comprised of a diverse membership of over 1,000 advocates, attorneys, organizations & allied groups strategically uniting together in coalition to promote our shared goal of ending domestic violence in California.



We work with local and state leaders to promote school policies & institutional practices which support healthy relationships and prevent adolescent dating abuse.



We recruit and collaborate with a variety of messengers to raise awareness of adolescent dating abuse and the need for school policies.



We actively engage partners and champions within the education system, as well as domestic violence, youth development and health professionals, to build broad-based support for positive school climates.



School environments support healthy relationships and prevent adolescent dating abuse. The incidence and prevalence of adolescent dating abuse in California decreases.

Get Involved: Become a Champion or Partner!

- Join our statewide Leadership Team, which provides guidance as we plan, implement and evaluate prevention policy strategies at the state level.
- Share and promote our prevention policy work.
- Collaborate with our Coalition to make change within your local school community.
- Join our Partnership Prevention Newsletter listserv.

Want more information? Visit us at cpedv.org/prevention or email policy@cpedv.org.

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