

LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: 252
SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: DATING VIOLENCE
ADOPTED: November 19, 2018
LAST REVISED: January 18, 2021

252. DATING VIOLENCE

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from dating violence. Dating violence is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district, providing a safe and secure environment for all students, and is prohibited at all times.

Definitions

Dating Partner shall mean a person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person, primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement, whether casual, serious, or long-term.¹

Dating Violence shall mean behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner.²

Authority

The Board encourages students who have been subjected to dating violence to promptly report such incidents.

The district shall investigate promptly all complaints of dating violence and shall administer appropriate discipline to any student who violates this policy.

¹ 24 P.S. 1553.

² 24 P.S. 1553.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination

Every report of alleged dating violence that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a dating violence investigation, potential issues of discrimination are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged dating violence.

Guidelines

Complaint Procedure

When a student believes that s/he has been subject to dating violence, the student is encouraged to promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal, and/or guidance counselor, and/or classroom teacher.

The building principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged dating violence.

The building principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation.³

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of dating violence, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.⁴

The district shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.

This policy on dating violence shall be:⁵

1. Published in the Code of Student Conduct.
2. Published in the Student Handbook.

³ 24 P.S. 1553.

⁴ 24 P.S. 1553.

⁵ 24 P.S. 1553.

3. Made available on the district's website, if available.
4. Provided to parents/guardians.

Dating Violence Training

The district may provide dating violence training to guidance counselors, nurses, and mental health staff at the high school as deemed necessary. At the discretion of the Superintendent, parents/guardians and other staff may also receive training on dating violence.⁶

Dating Violence Education

The district may incorporate age-appropriate dating violence education into the annual health curriculum framework for students in grades nine through twelve. The district shall consult with at least one (1) local domestic violence program or rape crisis program when developing the educational program.⁷

A parent/guardian of a student under the age of eighteen (18) shall be permitted to examine the instructional materials for the dating violence education program.⁸

At the request of the parent/guardian, the student may be excused from all or part of the dating violence education program.⁹

⁶ 24 P.S. 1553.

⁷ 24 P.S. 1553; 71 P.S. 611.13.

⁸ 24 P.S. 1553.

⁹ 24 P.S. 1553; 22 Pa. Code. 12.12; 20 U.S.C. 1232g.