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<b>TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE</b>	<b>JT-A</b>
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## **LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### Policy Against Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence

Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence disrupts a school’s ability to educate students and threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence.

Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence is prohibited in the public schools of Lincoln, RI [R.I.G.L. § 16-21-30].

It is the policy of the Lincoln Public Schools that all students be treated with respect. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Raise school-wide awareness about teen dating violence and sexual violence;
- Provide direction in responding to incidents; and
- Prevent new incidents of dating violence and sexual violence.

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 accepted. 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 if abuse develops. To the extent possible the influence of cliques and other exclusive school groupings will be diminished by the creation of a range of inclusive school activities in which students will be encouraged to participate [R.I.G.L. 16-38-4. Exclusive clubs].

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued regulations under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 entitled Sexual Harassment and Title IX of the Education Act of 1972, Anti-Discrimination Laws.

**THIS POLICY SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISTRICT’S STATEWIDE BULLYING POLICY, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION/ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND SECTION 504/ADA PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY POLICY.**

#### Definitions:

Dating Violence: Dating violence is 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.

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**Sexual Violence:** Sexual violence includes behaviors that are attempted or perpetrated against a victim’s will or when a victim cannot consent because of age, disability, or the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sexual violence 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; or
- Public display of images that were taken in a private context or when the victim was unaware.

**At School:** In the context of these regulations, the phrase at school includes the following places and situations:

- On school premises,
- Immediately adjacent to school property,
- At any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises,
- On a school-transportation vehicle,
- At school bus stops,
- While students are walking to or from school,
- Using property or equipment provided by the school, or
- Any other place at which bullying occurs which creates a material and substantial disruption of the education process or the orderly operation of the school.

**Disciplinary Sanctions:** As a school community, we believe in progressive discipline to educate our students. Repeated offenses will result in more severe consequences. Disciplinary consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis and reflect the number and severity of disciplinary issues. Parents are important partners in the disciplinary process. Communication with parents will be open and frequent as we work together to solve disciplinary issues for the safety and well being of our students.

The range of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a perpetrator of Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence, shall include, as applicable, but not be limited to:

- Admonitions, warnings and counseling
- Parental/ Guardian notification and meetings
- Detention
- Assignment of additional community/school service
- Loss of school-provided transportation or loss of student parking pass
- Loss of the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities

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- Loss of the opportunity to participate in school social activities
- Loss of the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises or middle school promotional activities
- Police contact
- Classroom exclusion
- Short term school suspension (10 or fewer days of suspension) or long term suspension (suspensions of more than 10 days)
- Transfer to another school

**Reporting Procedures:** Lincoln Public Schools shall establish a procedure for reporting, filing, and acting upon reports of incidents of teen dating violence and sexual violence. The procedure will be publicized to staff, parents, students, and volunteers. The person(s) responsible for reporting are:

- The victim
- Anyone who witnessed any act covered by this policy
- Anyone with credible information that an act covered by this policy is or has taken place

A report of Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence may be made on the complaint form that is attached to this policy, contained in the Lincoln High School handbook (beginning with the 2014-15 school year), and posted on the Lincoln High School website. Additional forms can be found in every classroom, guidance office and Principal’s office. Reports should be made to an adult within the school system.

**Administrator and Staff Training:** The school shall provide training on the Lincoln School District’s teen dating violence and sexual violence policy to all staff who have significant contact with students, including educators, school nurses and mental health staff, administrators, custodial and food service staff, and parents.

Per the *Lindsay Ann Burke Act*, the training shall specifically include, but not be limited to:

- Basic principles and warning signs of dating violence
- The Lincoln teen dating violence and sexual violence policy.

**Student Education:** On-going age-appropriate education on healthy relationships shall be provided to all students in grades K-12, with specific instruction relating to teen dating violence taught yearly in grades 7-12. Per the *Lindsay Ann Burke Act* this curriculum shall include but not be limited to:

- Defining teen dating violence;
- Recognizing dating violence warning signs; and
- Characteristics of healthy relationships.

Additionally, students shall be provided with the school district’s teen dating violence and sexual violence prevention policy. Upon written request to the school Principal by a parent or legal

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guardian of a pupil less than eighteen (18) years of age and within a reasonable period of time after the request is made, said parent or legal guardian shall be permitted to examine the health education instruction materials at the school in which his or her child is enrolled.

Social Skills Training: The school health program and school counseling services will include appropriate social skills training to help students avoid isolation and to help them interact in a healthy manner.

Responsibility of Staff: School staff, including volunteers, who observe an act covered by this policy or who have reasonable grounds to believe that an act covered by this policy is taking place must report the act to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Responsibility of Students: Students who are victims of any act covered by this policy or who observe any act covered by this policy or who have reasonable grounds to believe an act is taking or has taken place in violation of this policy are obligated to promptly report the incident to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. The victim of the teen dating violence shall however, not be subject to discipline for failure to report said violence.

Investigation: The Principal or his or her designee shall investigate all allegations of acts in violation of this policy. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary sanctions, subject to appropriate due process procedures, will be imposed. The investigation will include an assessment by the appropriate school personnel of the effect the incident has had on the victim.

Police Notification: When the act involves conduct that involves criminal law, the police will be notified.

Help for the Victim: If the investigation determines the victim's mental health has been placed at risk, appropriate referrals will be made. If the incident included a violent 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.

Prohibiting Against Retaliation: Retaliation or threats of retaliation in any form designed to intimidate a victim, those who are witnesses to an incident, or those investigating the incident, shall not be tolerated. Retaliation or threat of retaliation will be subject to appropriate school discipline which may result in imposition of a short or long-term school suspension. In appropriate cases, school officials will refer to [R.I.G.L. 11-42-2. Extortion and Blackmail] [R.I.G.L. 59-2 Stalking Prohibited].

Prohibiting Against False Reporting: False reports of acts covered by this policy will be subject to appropriate school discipline, including short and long term suspension from school.

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Individualized School Safety Plan: If a student is the victim of an act in violation of this policy and as a result, does not feel safe in his or her school environment, 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 formulate it.

Adopted: 12/8/08  
 Revised Policy First Reading: 9/9/13  
 Second Reading: 10/21/13  
 Adopted: 10/21/13

***TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island***

TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, DATING VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
COMPLAINT FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Alleged Incident(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Persons/Parties involved:

\_\_\_\_\_ Position/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Position/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Position/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Position/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Description of event(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When and where did the event happen?

\_\_\_\_\_

Were there any additional witnesses? [ ] yes [ ] no  
If yes, who?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this the first incident? [ ] yes [ ] no [ ] I don't know  
If no, how many times has it happened  
before? \_\_\_\_\_

Other information including previous incidents or threats:

\_\_\_\_\_

***I certify that all the statements made in this complaint are true and complete. Any intentional misstatement of fact will subject me to appropriate discipline. I authorize school officials to disclose the information I provided only as necessary in pursuing the investigation***

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Official receiving complaint: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School official conducting follow-up: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_