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LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I. 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. 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.

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

II. 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.

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.

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

- In any location of the school (classroom, lavatory, locker room, gymnasium, etc.)
- Anywhere 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

III. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Disciplinary consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis and reflect the number and severity of disciplinary issues. Communication with parents will be open and frequent as the school works to solve disciplinary issues for the safety and well being of the students.

IV. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Lincoln Public Schools shall publicize a procedure for reporting, filing, and acting upon reports of incidents of teen dating violence and sexual violence at school 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

Failure of any student or school staff member to report an act of dating violence or sexual violence occurring at school may result in disciplinary action. The victim of the dating violence or sexual violence shall, however, not be subject to discipline for failure to report said violence.

A complaint form is attached to this policy, in the Lincoln High School handbook, and 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 the Principal or designee.

V. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The Lincoln Public Schools shall provide appropriate administrator and staff training related to dating violence and sexual violence.

Students K-12 shall be provided with age-appropriate education on healthy relationships and characteristics of dating violence. In addition, students will be provided with social skills training to avoid isolation and teach healthy social interaction.

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VI. 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. In addition, individualized safety plans may also be imposed as appropriate and necessary. The investigation will include an assessment by the appropriate school personnel of the effect the incident has had on the victim.

Individualized School Safety Plan: If the victim does not feel safe in his or her school environment, the Principal or designee shall prepare a written school safety plan in collaboration with the victim's parents/legal guardians and appropriate school staff.

Police Notification: When the act involves conduct that violates 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 Every Student Succeeds Act.

VII. OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS

Prohibition 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. In most cases, retaliation or threat of retaliation will 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. 11-59-2 Stalking Prohibited].

Prohibition 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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TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island