

Women In Need, Inc. (WIN)

Respect 2 WIN: Teen Dating Violence Prevention & Healthy Relationship Program

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In response to increased awareness that dating violence is prevalent among youth, Texas has enacted legislation to assist schools in addressing this issue. In 2007, Texas HB 121 was passed mandating schools to adopt and implement a dating violence policy. This mandate now sits under Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, 37.0831.

Did You Know?



Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have severe consequences and short-and long-term negative effects on a developing teen. For instance, youth who are victims of TDV are more likely to:

- experience symptoms of depression and anxiety,
- engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol,
- exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying or hitting,
- and think about suicide.

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For instance, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college

(<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teendatingviolence/fastfact.html>).

In keeping with the requirements of state legislation and in light of the harmful prevalence of teen dating violence, it is our privilege to help your student(s) learn about teen dating violence and how to pursue healthy relationships. The curriculum we use helps students understand a plan to intentionally choose healthy dating relationships and avoid unhealthy relationships, warning signs of a potentially abusive dating relationship, the types of violence that can occur in a dating relationship, how to respectfully and safely exit a dating relationship, and a goal-setting tool for dating relationships.

We look forward to working with your students and helping them learn how to start and stay safe in dating relationships. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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