

From research to action: Disrupting education interference among teen dating partners



a project by teens for
teens and the adults who
support them

Actions

68%

of nearly 3,000 teens surveyed in 2021 reported experiencing some form of interference at school from a dating partner

You can help

Over half of survey respondents stated that teachers and school counselors help shape their views on healthy relationships, gender roles, and financial management.

Because teens spend a majority of their waking time in school, educators and school staff can play a large role in preventing and responding to teen economic abuse.

To prevent teens from having their education and career goals impeded by a dating partner, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships look like at various stages in their lives. For example, healthy relationships are centered on support and encouragement for one another to pursue their individual interests and goals. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

Economic abuse - when an individual interferes with their partner's education, employment, or finances - is common among teens, yet few recognize these harmful behaviors.

endteeneconomicabuse.org

Action Steps

Education for school staff, expanding content within prevention programming, and screening youth experiencing problems at school can help youth serving individuals better recognize and respond to economic abuse. Get started with these steps:



- 1 Include healthy relationship and dating violence prevention programming within health classes and programs.
- 2 Train school staff about what economic abuse looks like for teens and how it can impact academic success, attendance, and career choices.
- 3 Add inclusive content about navigating relationship conflict, school and work interference, and examples of control and coercion to dating violence prevention programming
- 4 Screen for signs of dating violence and educational interference and control when exploring declines in academic performance, changes in behavior, or investigating attendance issues and truancy.
- 5 Provide appropriate, trauma-informed support when you suspect a student may be experiencing teen dating violence or education interference from a partner.
- 6 Develop a relationship with local programs that support survivors of violence to host workshops focused on dating violence prevention during school hours.