

Teen Dating Violence & Economic Abuse



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

How does economic abuse impact students?

Economic abuse occurs when one dating partner interferes with their partner's ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources. This includes disrupting, interfering with, or causing problems for them at school and in their academic interests.

Students experiencing economic abuse may exhibit signs that educators may observe in the classroom, such as:

- A notable decline in grades or academic effort
- Skipping class or missing school
- Becoming more isolated
- Losing interest in once loved subjects or quitting extracurricular activities
- Centering their school lives around their partner

How can I help a student?

If you suspect a student is experiencing teen dating violence and economic abuse, it can be hard to know how to help. First and foremost, understand the requirements you may have as a mandatory reporter and what you can and cannot do to help. Follow these ABCs to start the conversation:

- 1. Acknowledge changes in behavior:** Let them know that they are not in trouble. Share your concern about their well-being and your desire to help them be safe and successful at school. Communicate any requirements you may have as a mandatory reporter.
- 2. Be empathic and supportive:** Teens may not think they are in an unhealthy relationship or may not want to share what they are experiencing (especially if you are a mandatory reporter). If they share that they are experiencing abuse, let them know that it is not their fault and they don't deserve it. If they don't share anything, let them know you are here if needed.
- 3. Connect to resources:** Share information for **Love is Respect** [www.loveisrespect.org], a national resource to disrupt and prevent unhealthy relationships and let them know what supports are available at school.

Join us at
www.endteeneconomicabuse.org
to learn more about economic
abuse and how you can help start
the conversation today.



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