

# Responding to TDV Red Flags

## For Teachers and School Staff



Being a supportive adult in a school setting allows students who have been harmed by Teen Dating Violence (TDV) to gain confidence and trust to share their experiences. By responding to student who have been harmed and the student causing harm, appropriate school staff intervention can help to break the cycle of violence!

### What Could be Helpful...

Offering to listen to the student who has experienced harm without judgment can support them to feel heard and validated. This may increase the likelihood of them continuing to seek support, and even ultimately to leave the relationship when they are prepared and feel safe enough to do so.

Reminding the student who has experienced harm and person causing harm that abusive behaviors are choices. Reminding everyone that abuse is a choice holds the person causing harm accountable for their actions, and takes the blame off of the person being harmed.

Referring both partners to appropriate counseling services allows for each person to get the support they need, whether it be to change abusive behaviors, or to heal from the impact of abuse.

### What Might Cause Harm...

Telling a student who has experienced harm from TDV to have more “respect for themselves” puts the blame on the person who has been harmed instead of the person causing harm. This can lead to the student who has experienced harm feeling invalidated and decrease their likelihood of seeking support in the future.

Considering accounts of abuse as “just a sign of growing up or immaturity.” Without holding the person causing harm accountable for their choices, bystanders allow for the cycle of violence to continue, which can make abusive behaviors seem permissible.