



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 09-67

**Resolution Recognizing National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week
February 2-6, 2009**

WHEREAS, Approximately 8.8 million children witness domestic violence each year. Children who have witnessed violence at home are also five times more likely to commit or suffer violence when they become older. 89 % of teens between the ages of thirteen and eighteen say they have been in dating relationships and only half of all teens (ages 11-14) claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful relationship. One in three teenagers report knowing a friend or peer who has been hit, punched, kicked, slapped, choked or physically hurt by their partner. 42% of boys and 43% of girls say the abuse occurs in a school building or on school grounds. And, if trapped in an abusive relationship, 73% of teens said they would turn to a friend for help; but only 33% who have been in or known about an abusive relationship said they have told anyone about it; and

WHEREAS, established in 1974, Women In Distress is the only nationally accredited, state-certified, full service domestic violence center serving Broward County. Our mission is to provide victims of domestic violence with safe shelter, crisis intervention and resources, and to educate the community in order to Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) through Intervention, Education and Advocacy. We strive to accomplish this mission by offering a 24 hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, education and professional trainings on domestic violence and related topics. Women In Distress believes that each survivor of domestic violence has the right to a safe secure home and the capability to self-determine her violence free future; and

WHEREAS, many teens living with dating violence do so in silence. Their silence is due to fear. As a community, we must not be silent on this issue and must actively promote dating violence awareness in addition to supporting and promoting programs offering vital prevention and assistance services to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Social Change department at Women In Distress is currently in the process of creating a survivor support group for teenaged survivors of dating violence at several Broward County schools. This initiative is the first of its kind in Broward County to reach out to victims of dating violence at the convenience of the student. The support group will allow for the further education of healthy relationships, the sharing of helpful resources and overall empowering support for teens who are in abusive relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida hereby recognizes February 2 through 6, 2009, as "TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK" and encourages all students, teachers, and staff to help raise awareness about dating violence and prevention of dating violence by participating in prevention messaging activities.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 3rd day of February 2009.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Maureen S. Dinnen, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools