



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 11-79

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH
FEBRUARY 2011**

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 tweens (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, many teen 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 has created 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The School Board of Broward County, Florida, in recognition of the role proclaim February as

“TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH”

and urges 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 1st day of February 2011.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Benjamin J. Williams, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools