

## ***CREATING A SAFE, CARING AND RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT***

### ***WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE***

#### **What teachers can do?**

- Acknowledge children when they feel empathy
- Identify bullying by teaching student to recognize and address bullying
- Promote acceptance of differences by teaching children to understand the issues regarding, and the value of, diversity
- Be a positive role model for students
- Improve awareness and communication, teach children the difference between telling when someone needs help and tattling to get someone in trouble
- Promote children's ability to listen to themselves and others and to help others
- Become an active listener and teach children to become active listeners
- Help children feel safe when expressing their feelings. Recognize, honor and talk about your feelings and encourage your students to do the same
- Encourage parental involvement in school activities
- Integrate interpersonal violence prevention/social emotional education into all subjects and levels

#### **What schools can do:**

- Create a school-wide philosophy that fosters positive discipline, academic success, and social and emotional wellness. Hold frequent and ongoing conversations about the beliefs, freedoms, and responsibilities of all members of the school community. Plan activities that focus on community building and the development of a shared vision for what the school can be
- Create school wide policies with clear and meaningful consequences, consistently applied
- Provide teachers with professional development opportunities to increase their awareness of social and emotional skills
- Provide adults and children with opportunities to work collaboratively to develop list of common values regarding rights and responsibilities within the school
- Coordinate health promotion and violent prevention efforts
- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Value social emotional competencies and intelligence as much as the cognitive development of students through the integration of social and emotional learning
- Teach social acceptance and responsibility and promote empathy in children by creating an environment where differences are appreciated
- Improve awareness and communication so students are knowledgeable about the warning signs of violence and the importance of telling an adult when they see or hear something scary or troubling

For more information on school environment:

<http://www.nyscenterforschoolsafety.org/files/filesystem/respect.pdf>

[http://cdna.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/TT45\\_web.pdf](http://cdna.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/TT45_web.pdf)

<http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/documents/policyscan.pdf>

