



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIP MONTH

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, data from the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report indicates that 8.4 percent of students experienced physical dating violence and 9.6 percent of students reported being threatened, controlled or made to feel unsafe by someone they were dating; and

WHEREAS, many teens do not report dating violence because they fear the abuse may escalate and that they will not be believed; and

WHEREAS, victims of dating violence are more likely to experience the symptoms of anxiety and depression and engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as drinking and smoking; and

WHEREAS, psychological, physical, and sexual dating violence is more likely to decrease when there is greater social support for teens; and

WHEREAS, dating violence can be prevented, and teen dating violence prevention instruction is required through section 1003.42 (2) (n) Florida Statutes, comprehensive health education; and

WHEREAS, section 1006.148, Florida Statutes, requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting dating violence and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed *Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships*, an evidence-based resource to assist schools and communities with teaching students ages 11 to 14 how to develop healthy relationship skills before they begin dating; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between state agencies, nonprofit and private organizations, law enforcement and the courts, health care, faith-based communities and educational institutions create a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective system of support to prevent teen dating violence; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships and collaborations, working collectively and creatively, can help to provide safety and resources to teens and prevent acts of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month is an opportunity to increase awareness, social support, and education on healthy dating relationships and provides encouragement for all Floridians to work together to prevent teen dating violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing February 2019 as *Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 7th day of February, in the year two thousand nineteen.





Governor