

# TAKE ACTION to prevent Education Sabotage

68%

of nearly 3,000 teens surveyed in 2021 reported experiencing some form of interference at school from a dating partner

Because teens spend a majority of their waking time in school, educators and school staff can play a large role in preventing and responding to adolescent economic abuse.

Economic abuse: when an individual interferes with their partner's education, employment, or finances - is common among teens, yet few recognize these harmful behaviors.

To prevent teens from having their education and career goals impeded by a dating partner, it is critical to educate teens about what healthy relationships look like at various stages in their lives. For example, healthy relationships are centered on support and encouragement for one another to pursue their individual interests and goals. Teens should also have guidance on how to navigate when their education and career goals may conflict with their partner's vision for their future.

## Get started with these steps:

- 1** Include healthy relationship programming within health programs and invite programs to host workshops during school hours.
- 2** Train school staff to recognize economic abuse among teens and how it can impact academic success, attendance, and career choices.
- 3** Add inclusive content around navigating relationship conflict related to school and work and examples of control and coercion to healthy relationship programming.
- 4** Screen for signs of teen dating violence and educational interference and control when exploring declines in academic performance, changes in behavior at school, or investigating attendance issues and truancy.
- 5** Provide appropriate, trauma-informed support when you suspect a student may be experiencing teen dating violence or interference with their education from a partner

For more information visit: [www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/) 