



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROCLAMATION

**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH
February 2021**

WHEREAS, 9% of Ketchikan High School students and 19% of Revilla Alternative High School students experienced some form of physical dating violence in the past twelve months; and

WHEREAS, 8% of Ketchikan High School students and 9% of Revilla Alternative High School students experienced some form of sexual dating violence within the past twelve months; and

WHEREAS, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships and relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Hodne, on behalf of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District do hereby encourage the school district and community of Ketchikan to observe February 2021 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Further, I urge the district and community to: work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assist victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, create better and more resources for young people in need, institute effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engage in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence.

Signed this 10th day of February 2021

Kim Hodne
School Board President