






TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education 
Ms. Linda J. Cimino, Director, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Office of Victim Services 
Ms. Karen Jarmoc, President and CEO, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence 

DATE: August 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence Services and Resources for Students, Parents/Guardians and the School Community

Each year, nearly [38,000 victims](#) of domestic violence seek assistance from the [Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(CCADV\)](#), their [18 member organizations](#) providing direct services locally across the state, and [Safe Connect](#) - Connecticut's domestic violence resource hub.

During COVID-19, all domestic violence organizations in Connecticut are fully operational and offering flexible and creative remote services to meet the needs of victims and survivors. During the first two months of the pandemic, 66% of individuals who accessed services through *Safe Connect* had never previously reached out for help from a domestic violence organization in Connecticut. Approximately 50% of victims who contacted *Safe Connect* also expressed concerns related to COVID-19 including access to basic needs, rent/mortgage payments, food insecurity, and emotional well-being.

Public Act 19-146, [An Act Requiring the Provision of Information Concerning Domestic Violence Services and Resources to Students, Parents and Guardians](#), directs the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department in collaboration with CCADV, to compile information concerning services and resources available to victims of domestic violence, and to provide that information to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). The resources can be found at:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/TDV/Connecticut_Domestic_Violence_Resources.pdf and include:

- an overview of domestic violence, available services for survivors, signs of an abusive relationship, compensation for victims, the confidentiality program, and how to access these services;
- referrals available for counseling and support services, including the Safe at Home program, shelter, legal and medical services, domestic abuse hotlines, mental health counseling and financial assistance; and
- procedures to voluntarily and confidentially identify eligibility for referrals for counseling and supportive services.

For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year thereafter, the CSDE will disseminate the published information to each local and regional board of education. Each local and regional board of education must provide the information to students or families of students who express concerns of not feeling safe at home due to domestic violence.

Please share this information on domestic violence, contacts, and resources with the appropriate staff in your district as well. For more information, please contact the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) at 860.282.7899 or <http://www.ctcadv.org/>.

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cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner
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