

EXPECT RESPECT SF

Expect Respect SF (ERSF) is a City College of San Francisco (CCSF) program and a community collaborative of San Francisco domestic and sexual violence prevention programs working to promote healthy and violence-free dating through youth-centered, culturally-sensitive education. Our goal is to introduce healthy relationship workshops to all San Francisco public high school students. Currently, we present our workshops in all 16 SFUSD high schools.

Collaborative Members; Project SURVIVE at CCSF, San Francisco Women Against Rape, La Casa de las Madres, Shalom-Bayit, Community Youth Center, The San Francisco LGBT Center, Health Initiatives for Youth (HIFY), The Riley Center, W.O.M.A.N., Inc., Planned Parenthood, Asian Pacific Islanders Legal Outreach, and Females Against Violence.

Program: ERSF college-aged and CCSF trained peer educators deliver two presentations on healthy relationships, oppression and power, and youth dating violence to all of the freshmen health classes at each high school. One of the collaborating community based organizations makes a third follow-up presentation that concentrates more directly on various topics, such as sexual harassment, homophobia/transphobia, safety plans, and healthy boundary setting.

Youth Educators: CCSF has also started to train high school peer educators to team up with college peer educators in delivering a coherent, consistent, comprehensive message through regular workshops in their own schools. The high school students take the two training classes at the college: “The Politics of Sexual Violence” and “Ending Sexual Violence: Peer Education.” An agreement between the SF Unified School District and CCSF allows them to receive both high school and college credit and to enroll in these classes tuition-free.

Teacher Training: In the future we plan to offer the “The Politics of Sexual Violence” class during a CCSF summer school session, so interested high school teachers can receive credit and expand their knowledge base on dating violence prevention and healthy relationship promotion.

Social Justice Vision: Our work is linked to social movements that acknowledge and resist systematic political, economic, and social oppression. Health education that seeks to prevent and repair physical, sexual, and psychological injury in teen dating relationships, as well as older adult relationships, must address the links among various forms of oppression, such as racism, classism, sexism, homophobia/heterosexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, and anti-Semitism as well as anti-Arabism. We also believe that prevention education among youth is the best way to decrease interpersonal violence in the future older adult population.

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