

To: Principals of Silver Creek, Mount Pleasant, Santa Teresa, Overfelt, Oak Grove, and EVHS.
Subject: The Coaching Boys to Men Program

Dear Principals,

This letter is from the San José Youth Commission, a commission of high-school youth who officially advise the Mayor and City Council on youth concerns and topics. Our work consists of developing policy proposals, as well as engaging youth through various types of civic participation. On our board of eleven youth, ten represent a corresponding city district in which they reside, and one is the city-wide manager, selected from the overall youth regardless of district.

In our annual work plan, we as the Youth Commission have identified the issues of public safety as well as public health as priorities to focus upon. It is well-established that 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner per year according to Love is Respect.org, a national resource whose goals include the empowerment of youth as well as the prevention of teen dating violence. As such, the Youth Commission strongly encourages you to consider adopting the Coaching Boys to Men program within your respective schools.

This free program aims to teach young male athletes about the characteristics of a healthy relationship, including respect and consent. The coaches of the athletic teams would undergo a training session and then give 12 lessons—just 15 to 20 minutes long—on the importance of a healthy relationship and how to put these lessons in practice. Partnering with Next Door Solutions—who started this program—would foster constructive dialogue among students and their coaches and potentially benefit students across your high school as the same organization plans to expand its programs to target female athletes through the AAL program in the future, expanding the much-needed conversation on teen dating violence.

The Coaching Boys to Men program is empirically proven to be successful as the CDC found that participants in the program were significantly more likely to intervene when abuse occurs and significantly less likely to be perpetrators of abuse. Therefore, the Youth Commission truly believes that a partnership with Next Door Solutions would be beneficial to your high schools in order to take a major stand against teen dating violence.

If you are interested in participating in the Coaching Boys to Men program, please contact:

Adriana Garcia

Community Prevention Coordinator of Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

agarcia@nextdoor.org

408.501.7543

Sincerely,

San José Youth Commission