

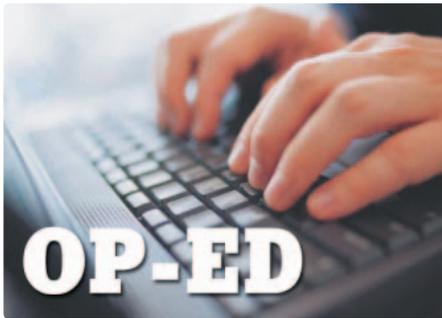
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Independence House issues statement on D-Y teacher misconduct investigation

"We need to make sure our children are safe and informed"

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Editor's note: The following statement was issued by the Independence House Board of Directors on Monday.

The current investigation of a teacher's misconduct with a Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School student makes clear that sexual inappropriate and reprehensible behavior continues to be a serious problem in our community.

Leaders in positions of institutional authority must take action to make certain that situations involving sexual misconduct are avoided. We ask the D-Y School Administration and all other school systems throughout Cape Cod to review their policies on sexual misconduct, and institute age-appropriate informational education programs regarding these matters in their schools. We need to make sure our children are safe and informed, people in positions of authority are held to the highest standards and that any sexual misconduct is dealt with swiftly and accordingly. We also encourage parents to speak out, get involved and voice their concerns about these issues with their child, school staff and administration.

We applaud Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School and other schools on the Cape for instituting the Mentors in Violence-Prevention (**MVP**) Program. The MVP at D-Y is a youth-focused educational and prevention program, run by Independence House Staff, that promotes healthy relationships and violence prevention among high school students. It is available to all high schools on Cape Cod that are interested.

Independence House, Inc. is Cape Cod's leading resource, counseling and advocacy center to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence.

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