

What's with GREEN DOT?

Have you ever seen an outbreak movie where a map is covered in red dots – and that basically indicates the whole world has been turned into a zombie? Well, Green Dot uses the same idea, but instead of a zombie outbreak or virus, each red dot is an instance where someone hurts another person in some way. Our map is covered with red dots – each time a teen excludes another teen from a social activity; each time a teen posts embarrassing and/or explicit photos of a peer online; each time one teen limits their dating partner's access to friends or activities they previously liked; each time a teen takes advantage of a peer who is too incapacitated to give consent.

Frequently in these situations, other teens are the bystanders best positioned to take action to stop these red dots from playing out. That's what a green dot is, actually: any behavior, post, comment, or action that stops a red dot from playing out or makes it clear that violence isn't OK here. Green Dot's aim is to train the most influential teens in our communities to be able to respond effectively to these situations in a realistic way - thereby filling our map with green dots (instead of red).

You don't have to see anything directly in order to do something about violence, though. Green Dot also trains and encourages teens and staff to proactively let the people around them know that they won't stand for violence by having conversations, doing projects, posting online, or taking other actions.

As a staff member, you also have a lot of influence on how teens treat each other. You can use the 3D's yourself both at and outside of the library. You may also end up being a teen's Delegate option – especially if you're an adult that is well-liked and trusted among teens.

- * Incorporate bystander concepts and topics such as standing up against bullying, dating violence, and sexual violence into programming, and discussions.
- * Encourage teens (in a non-embarrassing way) when you see them including someone new or doing a green dot.
- * If you know a teen who seems to have a pretty big influence on their peers, talk to them about how powerful their influence can be. Use it for good.
- * Connect to local agencies with missions related to ending violence and helping people affected by violence.
- * Follow us on social media @greendotgcky.

BYSTANDER TECHNIQUE: THE 3D'S

DIRECT

"Are you OK?"
"Do you really think that's a good idea?"

DELEGATE

"I think your friend's in trouble..."
"Let me get someone else."

DISTRACT

"Have you seen the last episode of [x]?!"
"I think your car might be getting towed!"