Possible Repeat Offender
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Question:
We received a report of possible dating violence in 2017 involving two students. The reported victim at the time did not respond to outreach and no administrative action was taken. This week we received another report of dating violence involving the same accused student with a different student victim. The student victim in this case has made an administrative complaint. Question: Do we contact the student victim from the 2017 report? If so, what do we say to her?

That’s really a tough call. As a reminder, we can investigate incident, pattern, or climate. You have to decide if you are investigating an incident or a pattern. If a pattern, then yes. If an incident, probably no.

I might work this one backward, for a number of reasons, starting with an investigation of incident. If it looks like there is enough evidence to act to protect your community, I would not broaden the inquiry. If there is not enough evidence, then you have to decide if you are going to move to a pattern footing and expand the net.

I am not saying this so you can “get” the offender, but instead to act to protect the 2017 alleged victim from a process they may not want to be a part of, and which could be traumatizing or even dangerous to them.