

Erin's Law

Board Meeting February 6, 2018

Presented by:

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What is Erin's Law

Erin's Law is named after Erin Merryn as she was the force behind getting this law passed. Erin is the author of *Stolen Innocence* and *Living for Today*, both are memoirs about incest and rape. She was raped and molested for six and a half years by a neighbor and a family member. Erin began a crusade her senior year of high school in 2004 to end the silence and shame around sexual abuse.

Erin's law is PA 97-1147 (HB6193) effective 1/24/2013. This Public Act amended Section 3 of the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act to provide for age-appropriate prevention education in grades PrK-12. Public Act 960-1524 and 105 ILCS 110/3 effective 2/14/2011 only covered grades prK-5. PA 97-1147 is a child safety/prevention program.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2043&ChapterID=57>

Procedure

Districts must adopt and implement a procedure addressing sexual abuse of children and may address, without limitations the following:

- Methods for increasing teacher, student and parent awareness of some issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse.
- Actions that a child who is a survivor of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention.
- Available counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse.

Confidentiality

Once a student discloses information about sexual abuse, the police and DCFS must be contacted. For staff support, the staff member can contact the student support team member such as a social worker, psychologist, or administrator. Otherwise, all information in regards to the sexual abuse must be kept confidential. This includes the child's name, the perpetrator, and details in regards to the abuse. This information should **NOT** be shared with other students, parents, or teachers under any circumstances.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2043&ChapterID=57>

We need to educate:

- **Students - Preschool through 12th grade**

- Methods: age appropriate curriculum including role plays, discussions, activities, books and videos
- Topics:
 - Tools to speak up and tell if anyone has ever touched them inappropriately rather than keep it a secret
 - Difference between safe touch and unsafe touch
 - Difference between safe secrets and unsafe secrets
 - Information on how to get away and tell a trusted adult and keep telling until they are believed

- **School Personnel**

- Sexual abuse information, statistics, warning signs, grooming, community resources
- Mandated reporting responsibility

- **Parents, Guardians, Caregivers**

- Sexual abuse information, statistics, warning signs, grooming, community resources
- Mandated reporting responsibility

- **Services and Support**

- Districts are required to offer counseling resources, as well as other resources, for children affected by sexual abuse and to provide educational and emotional support for the child.

Curriculum: Child Lures Prevention Think First & Stay Safe (Preschool-6) and Teen Lures Prevention (7-12)

Think First & Stay Safe curriculum is the 7 Cornerstone Lesson Plans, which teaches students core concepts related to healthy relationships, personal & digital boundaries and child personal safety.

The program emphasizes that crimes like bullying, harassment, and sexual abuse are against the law, don't have to be tolerated or kept secret, because all children have the right to live free of abuse.

Child Lures has been used for decades to groom, trick and intimidate children into abusive situations. By teaching awareness, knowledge and assertiveness, as well as the opportunity to report any form of abuse, we empower children in many ways.

Curriculum Continued:

The goals of the Teen Lures Prevention are to promote the importance of healthy family, social and dating relationships, and to help students discuss openly about and seek help for abusive relationships and behaviors.

Areas discussed in this program include sexual assault, harassment, dating violence, bullying, suicide, electronic aggression and exploitation, and human trafficking.

Zacharias Center

Zacharias Center is a non-profit center that provides a wide range of supports and services to those affected by sexual abuse. They have been in existence since 1983. Services include a 24 hour support line, referral services, individual and group counseling for children and adults, and advocacy support (medical and court). They also offer professional training, school-based programs, and community awareness.

Creating a Sexual Abuse Prevention Program Overview

Year 1 2016.2017

- Write procedure
- Determine Procedure
- Form team/ member description/ responsibilities
- Consider pertinent questions/ planning of implementation
- School personnel training for certified staff by Zacharias Center

Year 2 2017.2018

- Training social work & psychologist staff on the curriculum
- Zacharias Center parent information night - Spring 2018
- Zacharias Center teach students- 3.15.18
- Board Presentation February 2018
- School personnel presentation for all staff by Antioch #34 Social Workers- Winter 2018

Year 3 2018.2019

- Social workers/psychs co-teach in the PreK-8th grades
- District Parent Information night-Fall 2018 (given by Antioch #34 committee)
- School personnel presentation for all staff
- Form team/ member description/ responsibilities
- Determine changes for K-5 structure

Year 4 2019.2020

- Teachers implement curriculum with support from social workers, psychologists and administration
- School personnel presentation for all staff
- Form new team/ member description/ responsibilities due to K-5 restructure

Thank you for your continued support as we implement Erin's Law throughout our school district.