

#SYOSTRONG

SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Topic: Implementation of Erin's Law

What is Erin's Law?

[NYS Memo](#)

[erins-law-faqs](#)

- Named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker and activist Erin Merryn. (Founder and President of Erin's Law) After Erin introduced the legislation in her home state of Illinois, the bill was named "Erin's Law" after her.
- As of July 2019, Erin's Law has been passed in 37 states including New York.
- "Erin's Law" requires that all public school implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program focusing on teaching all students in grades K-8.
- Designed to educate students, parents, and school personnel about the prevention of child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse
- Parents are unable to opt out of this requirement
 - NYSED encourages local school districts to partner with families and communities to make decisions about sexual abuse education that are developmentally appropriate and consistent with community values

Erin's Law is a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

1. **Students** age appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult
2. **School personnel** about child sexual abuse
3. **Parents & guardians** the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families

Why is Erin's Law Important?

- Intended to help children, teachers, and parents in NYS schools to **identify sexual abuse**, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse
- Every 6 minutes a child is sexually abused in the U.S. 1 in every 4 girls and 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before they turn 18 - over 90% by a family member or friend. Only 1 in every 10 sexually abused children ever tell anyone about it
- [Meet Erin Merryn](#)

What will students be taught?

- The difference between safe and unsafe touches/secrets.
- Identifying safe adults in their lives
- Online safety

How will we implement this mandate?

- The Elementary Social Workers developed lesson plans using the Nassau BOCES curriculum and other established resources where two lessons will be taught in grades 2 and 4. Lessons have been embedded within the health curriculum for grades 6 and 8.
- Faculty presentations will be provided to explain the mandate and show sample lessons to support implementation within the building.
- Parent letters will be sent home providing information about the specific mandate, the inability to opt out, lesson links, and internet resources.

Timeline:

January 2023:

- Review with BOE and building administration
- Review with school psychologists at department meetings

February 2023:

- Grade Level/Faculty Meetings
- Parent Letter Distributed from the building

March 2023:

- First lesson implementation

April/May 2023:

- Follow-Up Lesson (Trusted Adult)

Lessons:

[Erin's Law Lesson Grades 2](#)

[Erin's Law Lesson Grade 4](#)