

DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Where GREAT Things Happen!

Mrs. Hattie Shelton
Superintendent

Mrs. Vickie Poe
Assistant Superintendent

Erin's Law Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

In accordance of Erin's Law (HB197) passed by the Alabama Legislature on June 11, 2015 the Alabama Governor's Erin's Law Task Force has established state guidelines for a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in Grades kindergarten through 12 consistent with techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability, and encourage them to report the abuse.

All public school systems are required to establish developmentally appropriate instruction. The Alabama Governor's Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children has established recommended guidelines that have been approved by State Board of Education.

This document is to serve as a guide and as a resource for the Dallas County Schools to develop appropriate instruction and curriculum for students in grades K-12 to implement Erin's Law.

- 1. Dallas County Schools Erin's Law Task Force consists of school principals, school counselors, and community stakeholders.**
- 2. Recommended Standards for Child sexual abuse prevention based on the law and best practices to be used as school systems choose their required program.**

Techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability, and encourage them to report the abuse.

1. At least four sessions of instruction to reinforce the concepts learned in the program.
2. Sessions conducted at least annually, building on skills learned in the previous years.
3. Developmentally appropriate instruction for each grade level.
4. Involvement of students as active learning participants, and include discussions, modeling, and role-playing.
5. A capacity to be delivered by a wide range of personnel and professionals, including teachers, school counselors, outside agency prevention educators, and the like provided that the personnel and professionals should have a thorough knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to respond appropriately to child sexual abuse disclosures.
6. An evaluation component with measurable outcomes.
7. Instruction that is culturally sensitive and adaptable for use within varying school contexts, including age, race, and special needs.
8. An evidence-based curriculum, to the extent possible.
9. A professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling of child sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting.

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10. A component that encourages parental involvement within the child sexual abuse prevention program. This component shall inform parents about child sexual abuse topics, including characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors, and how to discuss this topic with children.

3. Programs for immediate implementation:

Callie Nelson has the following programs and is willing to train school counselors:

- Relationship Smarts (building healthy relationships)
- Managing Pressure before Marriage (abstinence)
- Media Madness (social media).
- Curriculum was developed by the Selma City and Dallas County Schools' counselors for PreK-12. The Curriculum will be implemented each year for PreK-12

4. Recommend at the beginning of each school year as part of each local school system's In-service, a program on Mandatory Reporting be provided.

The Child Advocacy Center and Department of Human Resources worked together to complete our training for certified and support staff in August 2016. Each year thereafter they will be on the Institute agenda. All certified personnel are responsible for completing the training online (at their assigned school) and submitting a copy of their certificate to the school principal. Certificates are to be kept on file in the principal's office.

5. Recommend at the beginning of each school year, an orientation for all middle school and high school students be provided 'peer-to-peer' sexual abuse crimes by any of the following: the School Resource Officer (SRO), school principal, Child Advocacy Center, the Alabama Department of Human Resources, or a District Attorney's Office.