

Krista Legge
Director of Special Education



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Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

In August 2019, the New York State Governor signed Erin's Law- mandating the teaching of child abuse and exploitation prevention to students in grades K-8 in all public schools. Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, a survivor, author, and advocate. Erin's Law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools identify warning signs, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, and/or resources for children and families who are victims of child abuse or exploitation.

Each grade level has grade-banded objectives that are required to be taught each year. The prevention-oriented lessons will include age-appropriate instruction on defining the wide range of behaviors and experiences related to internet safety, self-esteem, body image, healthy friendships and relationships, safe choices and safe and unsafe touches, boundaries, and finding a safe adult if confronted with a potentially unhealthy or unsafe situation. These lessons further educate on topics already taught as part of our Health Education program, within our community circles, and during Library instruction. The school social worker and school guidance counselor will be providing these lessons.

The NYS Education Department has developed a resource grid that parents and guardians can easily access to help better discuss some of these topics with your children, as well as gain a better understanding of what Erin's Law is and how it is intended to protect children from abuse and exploitation. Please visit <http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/erins-law>

If you have any questions about the Erin's Law lessons, please contact the building social worker.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Paul E. Manzo
Superintendent of Schools