

## Tips for Implementing Erin's Law/Gavin's Law

**Tip #1:** Work with your school leadership team to create a plan for implementation. Be intentional about the content/law without making this a check box. Consider discussing the material throughout the school year for continued reinforcement. For example, complete the Erin's Law lesson in the Fall, address online safety (Gavin's Law) prior to Winter Break and refresh following break, and complete the Human Trafficking lesson in the Spring which compliments and reinforces Erin's Law lesson.

**Tip #2:** Prepare your staff/faculty ahead of the implementation date. Teachers will need to be logged into Rethink Ed to access the lessons.

**Tip #3:** Be ready to support your staff, emotionally and mentally. Provide check-ins to ensure teachers are comfortable and feel supported with the subject matter. Ensure school counseling services are aware of implementation dates, material, and readily available to provide support for staff and students.

**Tip #4:** Provide teachers the 2-page handout titled '[Supporting Our Students](#)' located in the Curriculum Folder. The '[Supporting Our Students](#)' resource helps teachers answer difficult questions, assists when intervening with an upset and dysregulated child, and provides a guideline in the case a student discloses trauma, neglect, or abuse.

**Tip #5:** Utilize the reinforcement [posters](#) by hanging in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and other high traffic areas. Encourage faculty and staff to redirect and provide reflection opportunities for students to practice respecting others boundaries as well as reinforcing personal boundaries by using content from the lessons.

**Tip #6:** If your school would like implementation guidance or staff training ahead of implementation, please contact [Holly\\_Kut@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Holly_Kut@charleston.k12.sc.us)

### Can Students Opt Out?

Unlike Reproductive Health Education, parents & guardians are **not** given the ability to opt the student out of the lessons. **This is a state-required mandate for all students in grades K4-12.** If a parent or guardian has a concern or request to opt the child out, please consider the following steps:

1. We no longer need to send home a parent/guardian notification. This is not required by state mandate as it is for reproductive health education.
2. If a parent calls with a concern, wanting to know the specific date(s) the lessons will be provided, or a request to opt their child out, please document the interaction. There are times it may be a **'red flag'** for the decision to opt a child out of a prevention awareness program.
  - a. Refer to [South Carolina Department of Social Services Mandated Reporter Guide](#) page 9 for General Indicators of Maltreatment, Signs of Physical Abuse, Signs of Neglect, Signs of Sexual Abuse, and Signs of Mental Injury.
3. Listen to the parent/guardian for their specific reason to opt the student out. Use your best judgment. If you feel there's a reason to do so, then feel free to allow the exemption. For example, a student may have experienced sexual abuse in the past or currently and the parent has been in contact with school counselors. Sometimes these lessons can be triggering and the parent may want to prevent any unexpected or unneeded emotions when treatment is already in course.
4. Have your school counselors ready to provide resources to the parent/guardian about Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention. Refer to the [Dee Norton document](#) as well as the [South Carolina Department of Social Services Mandated Reporter Guide](#) located in the Erin's Law/Gavin's Law Curriculum Folder.

## **Documentation Required After Completion**

Once your school has implemented the requirements for Erin's Law/Gavin's Law, please complete the following google form to document the completion: [Erin's Law/Gavin's Law Documentation](#)