

ERIN'S LAW

PARENT WORKSHOP

February 10th 6:30 PM

PM

Presented by:

Roanie Taveras



Intro/Background: Who is Erin Merryn?

Erin Merryn:

- Childhood sexual assault survivor
- Author
- Speaker
- Activist
- Founder and President of Erin's Law



@ERINMERRYN



[HTTPS://WWW.ERINSLAW.ORG/](https://www.erinslaw.org/)



ERIN'S LAW

Intro/Background: Erin Speaking About Erin's Law



“We practice tornado drills, bus drills, fire drills, yet there was nothing on how to speak up and tell if you were being abused.”

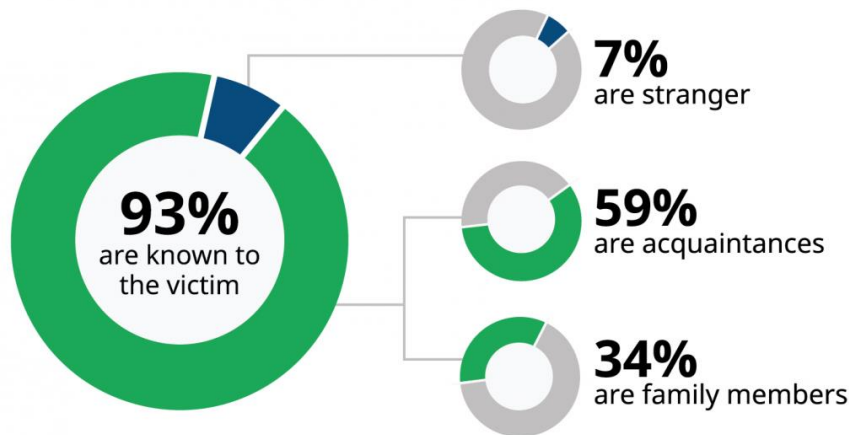
-Erin Merryn



Intro/Background: Sexual Abuse/Erin's Law Stats

CHILD VICTIMS OFTEN KNOW THE PERPETRATOR

Among cases of child sexual abuse reported to law enforcement:



RAINN

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org
Please visit rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens for full citation.⁴

- Every six minutes a child is being sexually abused in the U.S
- By the age of 18:
 - 1 in 4 girls
 - 1 in 6 boys
- NY passed Erin's Law August 2019 (37th state to mandate in public schools)
- Remaining 13 states - pending
- Stranger Danger = OUTDATED!

Intro/Background: Goals of Erin's Law in NYS

All public schools must implement a prevention child sexual abuse program that teaches:



Students:

Grades K-8 age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult

COMPREHENSIVE ERIN'S LAW PROGRAM INCLUDES

School Personnel:

Mandated Reporter **Training**

Requirement to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when, in their professional capacity, they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment

Parents/Guardians:

The warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families

What is Erin's Law?

IT IS...

**PROACTIVE
(PREVENTION-FOCUSED)**

**BODY SAFETY &
BOUNDARIES EDUCATION**

NYS MANDATE - EVERY YEAR

IT IS NOT...

**REACTIVE
(IN RESPONSE TO ABUSE)**

**SEX
EDUCATION**

**OPTIONAL FOR SCHOOLS
TO IMPLEMENT**

Erin's Law Plan

- Some of the requirements/grade band objectives for the lessons were already being met by:
 - Health Curriculum– grades 4th, 5th and 7th
- Curriculum development:
 - Refining the specific details
 - Creating K-8 lessons based on NYS resources, and Nassau BOCES summer curriculum writing team, to meet grade band objectives



Patchogue Medford: Erin's Law Plan

- Nassau BOCES Collaborative Project
 - Partnering districts created lessons and shared resources that were distributed across Long Island
- We tailored the program specifically for Pat-Med

K-2	3-5	6-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Lesson in the classroom• School Social Worker, School Psych and District Wide Family Center Clinicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Lesson In classrooms• School Social Worker, School Psych and District Wide Family Center Clinicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Lessons 6th grade• 1 Lesson 7-8th• School Social Worker, School Psych and District Wide Family Center Clinicians

Erin's Law: Phrases & Language to Know

TOPIC:	K-2	3-5	6-8
Types of Touches	K: Good vs. Bad Touches 1: Safe vs. Unsafe Touches 2: Add in Uncomfortable/Confusing	Safe Touch Unsafe Touches (Ouch Touch/Private Touch) Comfortable/Uncomfortable	
Action Plan/Steps to Follow	"No, Go, Tell"		
Lesson/Unit Name	Body Boundaries		
Body Part Language	Private Parts/Bathing Suit Area	Anatomical Terminology	
Who to Go To for Help	Trusted Adults		
When/What to Tell	Safe vs. Unsafe Secrets		
Social/interpersonal relationships	Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships		Dating Violence (Abuse/Red Flags)

K-2 Lessons/Activities

Key Topics:

- Introduction to Erin's Law
- Body Boundaries
- Different Types of Touches
- No, Go, Tell
- Trusted Adults
 - Identifying at least 2 trusted adults

PARENTS

TEACHERS

COUNSELORS

FRIENDS

CLERGY

TRUSTED FAMILY MEMBER

This Lesson is about YOU
There is something very special that is YOURS

- We all have our very own bodies! They are different looking and have different parts.
- Each part is special, there are even some parts that are **PRIVATE**.
The parts of your body that are private are covered by your bathing suit.



Safe Touches and Unsafe Touches

Hitting

Pushing

Hugging

Handshake

Pinching

Touches on or near your private body parts

Pats on the back

High five

Touches that make you feel uncomfortable or afraid

Removing a splinter

Make us feel loved, safe, and healthy

A bigger person should never touch your private body parts EXCEPT to keep you safe, clean and healthy

3-5 Lessons/Activities

Key Topics:

- Types of Touches
- Internet Safety & Boundaries
- Healthy Relationships
- Protecting Ourselves
 - Smart Choices & Telling



6-8 Lessons/Activities

Key Topics:

- **Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships**
- **Protect Yourself**
 - **Secrets**
- **Smart Choices & Telling**
- **Evaluating students' relationships with self/others under influence of:**
 - **Social media (Digital Citizenship)**
 - **Peer Pressure**
 - **Personal identity**
 - **Values, interests, dreams, goals, etc.**

What is a healthy relationship?

- Mutual respect.
 - Respect each other's values @ boundaries.
- Trust.
- Honesty.
- The ability to compromise.
 - In a healthy relationship, each partner compromises a solution when there are problems.
- Individuality.
 - Each person should be supportive of his/her partner wanting to pursue new hobbies or make new friends. Each person has a life outside of their relationship.
- Healthy communication.
 - speak honestly and openly to avoid miscommunication. Problem solving fairly
- Understanding your feelings. What do you do with your emotions when you feel them?
 - Anger, sadness, frustration, jealousy, insecurity
 - All feelings are okay to have and to feel, they belong to you! It is all about what you do with them.



Rule 3: Making Smart Choices

[Protect Yourself Rules](#)

You should never post your full name, address, phone number, or school name on a public profile!
Can you think of other things that should always be kept private?

Imagine someone in a game chat or forum asked you for personal information – what should you do?

what is a
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP?



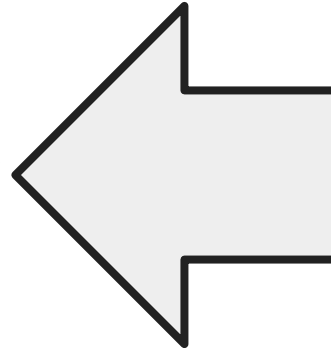
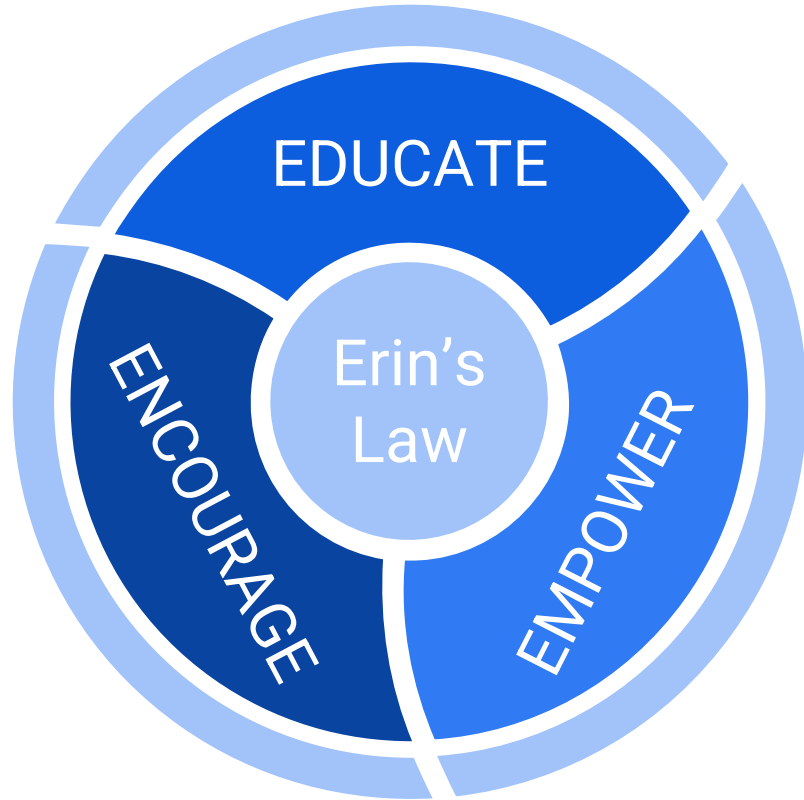
Additional Resources for Key Stakeholders

- **Support Staff in Buildings**
 - Administrators, social workers, psychologists, health teachers & counselors
- **Mandated Reporters Hotline for Child Abuse & Maltreatment**
 - 1-800-635-1522
 - imminent danger? → call 911
- **Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)**
 - <https://www.rainn.org/about-rainn>
 - Nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization
 - Created & operates National Sexual Assault Hotline
 - Phone Number: 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- **NYSED**
 - Erin's law FAQs:
<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-faqs.pdf>

Additional Resources for Key Stakeholders

- **Barbara Sinatra Foundation**
<https://barbarasinatrachildrenscenter.org/>
 - Collaboration with Joshua Center on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
 - National campaign on child abuse awareness and prevention
- **Parents/Families:**
 - **RAINN:**
<https://www.rainn.org/articles/talking-your-kids-about-sexual-assault>
 - **Erin's Law:**
<https://www.erinslaw.org/for-parents/>
 - **NYSED:**
<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-family-resources.pdf>

Closing Thoughts: Erin's Law Goals & Outcomes



And above
all else...
keep our
students
safe!!