

GAVIN'S LAW

Gavin's Law ([H.3583](#)) is legislation that makes sexual extortion, the act of blackmailing someone using sexually explicit images or videos, a felony offense and an aggravated felony if the victim is a minor, vulnerable adult, or if the victim suffers bodily injury or death directly related to the crime.

The bill reads in part, "Local school districts shall collaborate with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Attorney General's office, as appropriate, to implement a policy to educate and notify students of the provisions of this act which includes adequate notice to students, parents or guardians, the public, and school personnel of the change in law. The State Department of Education must file a report as to the status of the adoption and implementation of the education policies under this act to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, annually by July first of each year."

In November 2023, the School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties Board of Trustees approved new Board Policy [JICEB](#), "Gavin's Law Implementation." Families may find additional information regarding Gavin's Law on School District Five's [website](#).

ERIN'S LAW

The South Carolina Code of Law, Section 59-32-30(G) has been amended so as to provide that "beginning with the 2015-16 school year, districts annually shall provide age appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade. This instruction must be based on the units developed by the board (South Carolina Board of Education), through the department (South Carolina Department of Education), pursuant to Section 59-32-20(B)."

At the elementary level, instruction includes topics such as being unique, understanding feelings, being a friend, bathing suits cover private parts, good touch/bad touch, stranger danger, getting adult help, general safety rules for home and school, technology safety, and understanding peer pressure and media influences. These topics are aligned with the *South Carolina Health and Safety Education Standards* and the *Erin's Law Resource Guide* provided by the South Carolina Department of Education. These topics will be covered in many parts of the curriculum, including the developmental guidance program, academic classes, Physical Education classes, and school-wide programs.