



SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

Ensuring Student Success

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Andrew D. DuRoss
Superintendent of Schools

Cassandra Williams
Assistant Superintendent
Special Education

September 7, 2018

Dear Parent:

Again this year, we will be implementing a child sexual abuse prevention program in our schools as the result of the passage of Public Act 097-1147, also known as Erin's Law. This law expanded upon previous legislation and required child sexual abuse prevention education for children beginning in pre-kindergarten and continuing through all grade levels.

As a reminder regarding the development and scope of the program, a group of social workers and school psychologists from the district worked with our executive director of special education to develop a curriculum that will give the students the knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves. The lessons at each elementary grade level will be presented by the social worker and/or school psychologist, with the classroom teacher present, and last approximately 30 minutes. Each lesson has a children's book that will be read to the students and coupled with age-appropriate activities. The lessons for 7th and 8th grade are already in the health textbook and involve reading that material and having an appropriate discussion. The lessons for elementary school students will be completed sometime during the first trimester of school. You will receive specific information from the teacher regarding when these lessons are scheduled during the trimester. The junior high lessons will occur throughout the year during the health classes.

The themes that run throughout the curriculum are body awareness and self-advocacy. We want the children to be able to learn to say "no" when appropriate and to identify when to keep a secret and when to tell. We also help them think about their support system and who are adults that they can trust. They learn that the parts of their body covered by their bathing suit are special.

National statistics tell us that one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused at some point in their lives. We want to do all that we can, in partnership with you, to make our children as safe as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Judy Gurga, Principal