



Subject: Curriculum Parent Information

March 26, 2024

Dear NWLSD Parents and Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well. We want to inform you about an important initiative that will be taking place at our school in the coming weeks – the implementation of Erin's Law. [Erin's Law](#) is a state mandate aimed at promoting awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse. The instruction will begin in April and May.

What is Erin's Law?

Erin's Law is named after Erin Merryn, an advocate for the prevention of child sexual abuse and an abuse survivor herself. The law requires that all public schools implement age-appropriate curriculum to educate students on personal body safety. The goal is to empower children with the knowledge and skills to recognize, resist, and report inappropriate behavior.

Our Resource: *Fight Child Abuse*

To effectively address this sensitive topic, the Northwest Local School District has chosen the "Fight Child Abuse" resource to deliver the curriculum. All classes will participate in the program (between April and May) that will be led by our school counselors. Teachers will notify you about the schedule for instruction in your child's class, allowing you to follow up with your son or daughter as you see fit. Fight Child Abuse is a comprehensive program designed to engage students in age-appropriate discussions about personal safety, boundaries, and the importance of speaking up if they ever feel uncomfortable. For additional information or to review the curriculum, please visit the website by FightChildAbuse.Org.

Opt-Out Option

We understand that discussions around child abuse can be challenging for some families. As such, we want to make it clear that participation in this program is not mandatory. If you prefer that your child does not participate in the Erin's Law curriculum using the Fight Child Abuse resource. To opt-out, click the [Electronic Opt-Out Form](#). If you prefer, you can print and return the form below. Hard copies will be available in the Front Office at your child's school.

We respect and understand that every family is unique, and we are committed to accommodating your preferences while ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Please contact your principal if you would like to review the curriculum or have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Together, we can create a safe and nurturing school environment for our children.

Sincerely,

Lori Riehle
Assistant Director of Curriculum



Northwest Local School District

ERIN'S LAW OPT OUT GRADES K-6

_____ **OPT OUT:** As parent/legal guardian of (*student name*) _____, I request to have my child be excused from taking instruction regarding Erin's Law education.

Student ID Number _____ Student School _____

Student Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher Name _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

If opted out, a student's "opt out" status remains active through the 2023-2024 school year.