



January 29, 2014

Dear District 62 Parents and/or Guardians,

Many states, including Illinois, have passed laws with the intent of increasing the awareness of child sexual abuse. You may have heard of this legislation under its more common name, Erin's Law, in honor of Erin Merryn, a brave young woman who has crossed the country advocating for laws that will increase awareness of this much too common crime against children.

One of the requirements of this law is that schools provide an age appropriate curriculum to students in preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade relating to sexual abuse prevention. We have been working closely with the Sheriff's Department of Cook County, which has already developed a program on abuse prevention. Members of their abuse prevention team will be working with the social workers in all of our elementary buildings to provide education on this topic to students in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. They will visit each classroom twice for thirty minutes each session. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be educated as part of their health curriculum.

Keep in mind that this program is designed to be appropriate to the age of the students in each group. For our youngest students, the program includes a story or video focusing on safety and body awareness/ownership. An emphasis is placed on confiding in trusted adults and helping to identify who these trusted adults might be.

If you have questions about this program or prefer that your child not participate, please contact your building principal or social worker.

Sincerely,

*Ellen Teelucksingh, Ph.D.*

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Assistant Superintendent for Student Services  
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