

Erin's Law and Gavin's Law Parent Notification

In the year of 2014, the State of South Carolina passed Act 293 known as "Erin's Law," as part of health and safety education for its public schools. The purpose of the law is to ensure all students, pre-kindergarten through high school, receive this prevention instruction during the academic school year. The intent of Erin's Law is to give students skills in knowing how to stay safe from sexual assault and how to report any incidents of sexual assault. In addition, Gavin's Law, Act 54 of 2023, requires local school districts to collaborate with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Attorney General's office, to implement a policy to educate and notify students of the provisions of Gavin's Law. Gavin's Law deals with educating students on how to identify sexual extortion.

The South Carolina Department of Education created Erin's Law instructional units in support of the new legislation that amended the Comprehensive Health Education Act. South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-32-20 (B) was amended to read that the State Board of Education through the South Carolina Department of Education "shall select or develop instructional units in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention, with separate units appropriate for each age level from four-year-old kindergarten through twelfth grade."

Parental notification is being done by Florence School District Three for the purpose of keeping you informed on this very important State Department of Education initiative and the requirement under South Carolina law for local school districts to implement comprehensive health education programs, and provide annually age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten through twelfth grade.

If you are interested in learning more about Erin's Law or the instructional materials associated with it, please contact Florence School District Three District Office.