



COLD SPRING HARBOR  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Erin Merryn

- ▶ Childhood Sexual Assault Survivor
- ▶ Author
- ▶ Speaker
- ▶ Activist
- ▶ Founder and President of Erin's Law

# ERIN'S STORY





“

We practice tornado drills, bus drills, fire drills, yet there was nothing on how to speak up and tell if you were being abused.

–Erin Merryn

# IMPORTANT STATISTICS



**1 IN 5  
GIRLS**



**1 IN 20  
BOYS**

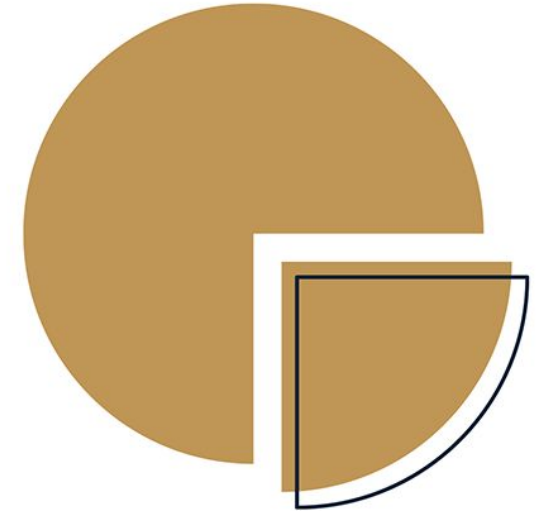
is a victim of  
child sexual abuse.

**CHILDREN AGES**

**7 to 13**

are the most vulnerable  
to child sexual abuse.

Most studies and reports show that **many survivors do not speak up and report their abuse.**



**28%**

of youths ages 14 to 17 had  
been sexually assaulted  
throughout their lifetime.

# WHAT IS ERIN'S LAW?

- Erin's Law is named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker and activist Erin Merryn who is the founder and President of Erin's Law.
- Erin's Law requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program.
- NY passed Erin's Law in August 2019 (37th state to mandate in public schools).
  - Pending in Remaining 13 states
- New York State's law, (Chapter 187 of the Laws of 2019) known as Erin's Law, requires public schools to teach child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention classes to students in kindergarten through 8th grade.
  - i.e. personal body safety – safe and unsafe touches

# WHAT IS ERIN'S LAW?

## IT IS...

**PROACTIVE  
(PREVENTION-FOCUSED)**

**BODY SAFETY &  
BOUNDARIES EDUCATION**

**NYS MANDATE**

## IT IS NOT...

**REACTIVE  
(IN RESPONSE TO ABUSE)**

**SEXUAL  
EDUCATION**

**OPTIONAL FOR SCHOOLS  
TO IMPLEMENT**

# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE & EXPLOITATION **PREVENTION**

## STUDENTS

Students in grades K-8 are taught age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.

Required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when, in their professional capacity, they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment

## SCHOOL PERSONNEL

## PARENTS

Informed about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families

# OVERVIEW OF REQUIRED GRADE BAND \*OBJECTIVES

*\*Covered Throughout Health & SEL Lessons*

TOPIC	K-2	3-5	6-8
Types of Touches	K: Safe vs. Unsafe Touches 1: Safe vs. Unsafe Touches 2: Uncomfortable/Confusing	Safe Touch Unsafe Touches (Ouch Touch/Private Touch) Comfortable/Uncomfortable	
Action Plan/Steps to Follow	“No, Go, Tell”		
Body Part Language	Private Parts/Bathing Suit Area		Anatomical Terminology
	Body Boundaries		
Who to Go To for Help	Trusted Adults		
When/What to Tell	Safe vs. Unsafe Secrets		
Social/Interpersonal relationships	Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships		Dating Violence (Abuse/Red Flags)



# KEY TOPICS

- Introduction to Erin's Law
- Body Boundaries
- Different Types of Touches
- No, Go, Tell
- Trusted Adults
- Safe and Unsafe Secrets
- Internet Safety (Not Sharing Personal Info)
- Identifying at Least Two Trusted Adults



## KEY TOPICS

- Different Types of Touches
- No, Go, Tell
- Internet Safety (Not Sharing Personal Info)
- Body Boundaries
- Identifying Unhealthy and Unsafe Behaviors
- Healthy Relationships
- Protecting Ourselves
- Smart Choices & Telling



## KEY TOPICS

- Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships
- Protecting Ourselves
- Smart Choices & Telling
- Evaluating students' relationships with self/others under influence of:
  - Social Media (Digital Citizenship)
  - Peer Pressure
  - Personal Identity
  - Values, Interests, Dreams, Goals, etc.



- **Support Staff in Buildings**
  - Administrators, social workers, psychologists, health teachers & counselors
- **Mandated Reporters Hotline for Child Abuse & Maltreatment**
  - 1-800-635-1522 (NYSCA)
  - For Imminent Danger, Call 911
- **Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)**
  - <https://www.rainn.org/about-rainn>
  - Nation's Largest Anti-Sexual Violence Organization
  - Created & Operates National Sexual Assault Hotline
  - Phone Number: 800-656-HOPE (4673)
- **NYSED**
  - Erin's Law FAQs



**For Parents  
& Guardians**

- **RAINN**
  - Talking to Your Kids About Sexual Assault
  - Warning Signs
- **Erin's Law**
  - Resources for Parents
- **NYSED**
  - Erin's Law Family Resources
- **National Sex Offender Registry**
  - USDOJ: National Sex Offender Public Website
- Barbara Sinatra Children's Center



Let Us Work  
TOGETHER

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE  
TO PLAY IN PROTECTING  
CHILDREN