

SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY - ERIN'S LAW

Erin's Law - The intent of Erin's Law is to shatter the silence and stigma around child sexual abuse, and to educate children and empower them to recognize and to report abuse.

Implementation - In compliance with the requirements of Erin's Law, Calhoun County Schools will:

1. Educate children in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 on child sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curriculum through role plays, discussions, activities, and books.
2. Give children the knowledge and encouragement to speak up and tell if anyone has ever touched them inappropriately, rather than keep it a secret.
3. Educate children on safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets, and how to get away from an abuser and report an incident immediately.

Requirements

All K-12 public schools shall establish a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students. The content of instruction shall be at the discretion of the local board; provided that, at a minimum, the instruction shall include all of the following:

1. Techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability, and encourage them to report the abuse.
2. At least four sessions of instruction to reinforce the concepts learned in the program.
3. Sessions conducted at least annually, building on skills learned in the previous years.
4. Developmentally appropriate instruction for each grade level.
5. Involvement of students as active learning participants, including discussions, modeling, and role playing.
6. The capacity to be delivered by a wide range of personnel and professionals, including teachers, school counselors, and outside agency prevention educators; provided that the personnel and professionals should have a thorough knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to respond appropriately to child sexual abuse disclosures.
7. An evaluation component with measurable outcomes.
8. Instruction that is culturally sensitive and adaptable for use within varying school contexts, including age, race, and special needs.
9. An evidence-based curriculum, to the extent possible.
10. A professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling of child sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting.
11. A component that encourages parental involvement within the child sexual abuse prevention program. This component shall inform parents about child sexual abuse topics, including characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors, and how to discuss this topic with children.