



**Outreach and Prevention
Packet
2024-2025**

Dear School Staff,

Turning Point's Helpline receives **10-15 calls daily** about domestic violence, highlighting the urgent need for proactive measures in McHenry County. Prevention education is crucial in addressing domestic violence and fostering healthy relationships from an early age. Teaching students to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationship traits helps prevent domestic violence and supports positive, informed decision-making.

By integrating comprehensive prevention education into our community programs and school curricula, we can address the pervasive issue of domestic violence more effectively, promote healthier relationship patterns, and enhance overall community well-being. We offer crucial trauma-informed presentations to schools and community groups at **no cost**, focusing on anti-violence education. Our sessions cover essential topics such as identifying healthy relationships, preventing teen dating violence and bullying, fostering positive friendships, and providing support for adolescents experiencing domestic violence.

In compliance with Illinois state law, we also offer Erin's Law presentations that provide age-appropriate education on sexual abuse and assault prevention across all grade levels. Due to funding constraints, we now need to charge for these presentations, we are happy to work with you on a fair price for the service. If this fee is a concern, please let us know—we are committed to working with you to ensure these resources remain accessible.

Additionally, we provide free workshops for teachers and staff on domestic violence, bullying prevention, and teen dating violence. Our Prevention staff receive 40 hours of training and must pass the Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professionals exam.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, please contact us at Elissac@turnpt.org or **815-338-8081**. We look forward to the opportunity to work together.

Best regards,

The Outreach and Prevention Team

Why Prevention?

1 in 4 teens are in relationships that are verbally, emotionally, or physically abusive.

The National Center for Education reports that more than **1 out of 5** students reported being bullied.

1 in 9 girls and **1 in 53** boys experience sexual abuse at the hands of an adult.

Meeting Illinois State Standards:

Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act.

105 ILCS 110/3.10

Sec. 3.10. Policy on teen dating violence.

The school board of each public school district in this State shall adopt a policy that does all of the following:

- States that teen dating violence is unacceptable and is prohibited and that each student has the right to a safe learning environment.
- Incorporates age-appropriate education about teen dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in grades 7 through 12 and school employees.

Public Act 096-1524

(105 ILCS 5/10-23.13 new)

Sec. 10-23.13. Policies addressing sexual abuse.

To adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may include age-appropriate curriculum for students in pre-K through 5th grade; training for school personnel on child sexual abuse; educational information to parents or guardians provided in the school handbook on the warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance, referral, or resource information; available counseling and resources for students affected by sexual abuse; and emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in school.

Any policy adopted may address without limitation:

1. methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse;
2. actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention; and available counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse. This Section may be referred to as Erin's Law.

Turning Point Curriculum:

Elementary School:

Pre-K - 3rd Grade:

A 30-minute presentation that includes a story time reading that will focus on age-appropriate anti-violence kids' books, covering topics such as bullying, friendship, and emotions. Included in this Storytime will be a read-aloud as well as a follow-up coloring activity or craft.

4th - 5th Grade:

A 30-minute presentation that focuses on bullying. Students will discuss the different forms of bullying and use practice scenarios to teach kids how to stand up for themselves and others without violence.

Erin's Law:

A 30-minute presentation that uses discussion and interactive methods to teach about age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault prevention education.

- Pre-K - 3rd Grade: Students will learn about safe and unsafe touch, consent, boundaries, and trusted adults. This presentation will include an age-appropriate book reading and a follow-up coloring activity or craft.
- 4th Grade: Students will learn about the differences between safe and unsafe secrets and trusted adults.
- 5th Grade: Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, trusted adults, the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, and their internal safety alarms.

Middle School:

Bullying Prevention

This presentation examines different forms of bullying. Students will discuss the differences between traditional bullying and cyberbullying and learn ways they can protect themselves while online.

Developing Healthy Friendships

This presentation utilizes discussion and practice scenarios to understand the different traits of a healthy versus unhealthy friendship. Students will learn how to set and communicate boundaries and practice how to resolve conflict within their friendships.

Healthy Relationships

This presentation focuses on identifying healthy versus unhealthy relationships. Students will learn about the different forms of abuse, the cycle of violence, setting healthy boundaries, and how to safety plan.

Erin's Law

A presentation that uses discussion and interactive methods to teach about age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault prevention education.

- **6th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, how to establish boundaries, and what consent means.
- **7th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, how to establish boundaries, what consent means, and the differences between sexual harassment versus flirting.
- **8th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, how to establish boundaries, what consent means, and the difference between coercion and consent.

High School Curriculum:

Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence

This presentation focuses on identifying healthy versus unhealthy relationships. Students will learn about the different forms of abuse, the cycle of violence, setting healthy boundaries, and how to safety plan.

Erin's Law

This presentation uses discussion and interactive methods to teach about age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault prevention education. Students will learn about consent, boundaries, grooming, trusted adults, sexual assault, bystander intervention, and how to report.

***Presentation topics can also always be designed to fit individual audience needs and requests.**

Contact Turning Point Domestic Violence Services at 815-338-8081 to schedule a presentation or discuss how the Outreach Department can be of assistance to your school.

Turning Point provides trauma-informed presentations to school and community groups on Anti-Violence Education. We also hold workshops for teachers and staff on domestic violence, bullying prevention, and teen dating violence.

Turning Point Prevention Staff upon request can provide parent letters on Illinois school mandates, presentation content, and staff credentials

Prevention Education FAQs:

Why do we present in a classroom setting instead of an auditorium?

Presenting sensitive topics in a classroom rather than an auditorium is beneficial because it creates a more intimate and comfortable environment, which encourages open discussion and personal engagement. The smaller setting allows for tailored content and immediate feedback, making it easier for students to ask questions and share their thoughts. Additionally, it helps maintain confidentiality and makes students feel more secure, fostering a supportive atmosphere for dealing with complex issues.

What is Teen Dating Violence (TDV) and its prevalence?

Teen dating violence (TDV) refers to the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional aggression within a dating relationship among adolescents. It can occur in various forms, including verbal abuse, emotional manipulation, physical violence, or digital abuse (e.g., using technology to control or intimidate). TDV can have serious consequences for victims, including physical injuries, emotional trauma, lower academic performance, increased risk of substance abuse, and long-term negative effects on mental health.

- 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. is a survivor of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.
- 1.5 million High school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- 1 in 5 victims say they experienced digital abuse or harassment at school during school hours; most takes place away from school grounds.
- 81% of parents believe that teen dating abuse is not an issue or admit they don't know it is an issue.

What are resources that I can use to help my teen experiencing Teen Dating Violence?

- Turning Point Domestic Violence Services: Call 815-338-8081
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: Provides crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to local resources. Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit their website at thehotline.org.
- Loveisrespect: Offers support specifically for young people experiencing dating abuse. Call 1-866-331-9474, text "loveis" to 22522, or visit their website at loveisrespect.org.
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health: Call 1-312-726-7020 ext. 2011 or go to their website for more information www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org

Do our presentations meet school legislative requirements?

Our presentations on bullying, healthy relationships, and teen dating violence are specifically designed to meet the legislative requirements outlined in Senate Bill 818 of Illinois. This bill mandates comprehensive education on these critical issues to ensure student safety and well-being. By addressing these topics in depth, our programs align with the state's requirements for promoting awareness, prevention, and intervention, thereby supporting schools in creating a safer and more informed environment for all students.

What does the curriculum cover during these presentations?

Below we have provided a chart of our curriculum (by school age).

Are there any accommodations offered for the presentations?

All of our presentations are designed to be inclusive and accessible to diverse student needs. We offer accommodations such as Spanish-speaking presenters and specialized support for students with different learning needs to ensure that every participant can fully engage with the material. Our commitment to accessibility helps ensure that all students receive the information and support they need, regardless of language barriers or learning differences.

What is Erin's Law, and why is it important?

Erin's Law is a legislative initiative aimed at preventing child sexual abuse through education (K-12). It mandates that schools provide age-appropriate instruction on recognizing abuse, understanding boundaries, and reporting concerns to trusted adults. It's crucial because it empowers children with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and seek help if needed. At Turning Point Domestic Violence Services we aim to equip students with age-appropriate information and resources they can use or they can provide to someone experiencing this.

Why do schools need to pay for Erin's Law Presentations?

To ensure the continued availability of our critical educational programming, Turning Point Domestic Violence Services will be implementing a fee structure for Erin's Law presentations starting in the upcoming year. Previously, we were able to offer these presentations at no cost, but due to a lack of funding, we are no longer able to sustain this model. Turning Point and the school would enter a Memorandum of Understanding with an agreed upon fee for service. We are committed to working with you to find a pricing solution that suits your school's needs. We encourage you to consider the significant benefits of Erin's Law presentations and include them in your future budget planning.

Is this information age-appropriate?

Erin's Law mandates that children receive age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention education. The information provided in Erin's Law presentations is tailored to the developmental stage and age of the children receiving it. The topics covered are carefully chosen to be relevant and understandable for the specific age group. For younger children, the focus might be on understanding personal boundaries, safe versus unsafe touches, and whom to trust. Older children might learn about identifying grooming behaviors, understanding consent, and knowing where to seek help. Educators and presenters are trained to handle the topic with sensitivity, ensuring that children feel safe and supported throughout the session. They use age-appropriate language to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Erin's Law presentations aim to provide children with valuable information and skills to protect themselves from abuse, while also respecting their developmental stages and ensuring that the information is comprehensible and empowering rather than frightening or overwhelming.

Is there anything we should share with our class prior to your presentation(s)?

Preparing students for instruction on sensitive subjects can help them to engage in the dialogue Turning Point has created more effectively. Giving students an idea of the topics that will be addressed helps prepare students for a sensitive conversation. Furthermore, it is likely that a student in your class/group has been impacted by these topics. Letting students know in advance gives individuals time to check-in with themselves.

- If your group is Middle School age and up, they will likely be asked to fill out a survey at the end of the presentation regarding the material they just learned
- Giving social workers/guidance counselors a heads-up can be helpful for this reason as well!

Can parents opt their children out of Erin's Law?

Erin's Law is a legislative initiative aimed at educating children about sexual abuse prevention. The law typically requires schools to implement age-appropriate programs that teach children how to recognize and report sexual abuse. When parents choose to opt their children out of such programs, they may have various reasons. However, opting out can potentially cause more harm than good for several reasons including leaving children unaware of how to recognize abuse, denying them vital support resources, normalizing silence on the issue, and hindering community safety efforts. It's crucial for parents and educators to ensure children receive this education for their safety and well-being.

What do I do if a child discloses sexual abuse to me?

- Say, "I believe you and it's not your fault;"
- Do ask open ended questions "Then what happened?"
- Don't express anger or disbelief.

- Conduct minimal fact interview;
- Determine what, when and by whom, if possible.
- Don't ask leading questions
- Let the child know that everything possible will be done to protect them.
- Do tell law enforcement/DCFS.
- Don't promise not to tell.
- Don't attempt further investigation.