



Outreach and Prevention Packet 2026-2027

Dear School Staff,

In its 45th year of service as the only comprehensive Domestic Violence Agency in McHenry County, Turning Point Domestic Violence Services receives 10-15 calls each day on our 24/7 Helpline, underscoring the ongoing and urgent need for prevention efforts in McHenry County. Through this essential work, we know that early and proactive education helps students recognize the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, and empowers them to break the cycle of violence.

Turning Point seeks to accomplish this by providing trauma-informed, **no-cost presentations** to schools and youth-serving organizations throughout the county. These sessions focus on **anti-violence education** and include topics such as *Healthy Relationships, Teen Dating Violence, Fostering Friendships, Digital Safety, Bullying Prevention, Emotions, Boundaries, and Supporting Youth Impacted by Violence*.

In accordance with Illinois state law, we also offer Erin's Law presentations, providing age-appropriate education on body safety to serve as sexual abuse and assault prevention for all grade levels. Due to funding limitations, we are required to charge a modest fee for Erin's Law sessions: \$35/presentation for elementary and \$45/presentation for middle and high schools. **If cost is a concern, please do not hesitate to reach out—we are committed to ensuring that these critical resources remain accessible to all schools and are willing to work with any budget.**

We also offer a number of other free workshops for outside the classroom, including professional development workshops for teachers and school staff. All our Prevention Educators have completed 40 hours of domestic violence and sexual assault training and are required to pass the Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professionals exam within the first year of being hired.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, please contact us at tiffanyh@turnpt.org or 815-338-8081. We look forward to partnering with you to address these issues at their roots and foster stronger, safer communities.

Warm Regards,

The Outreach and Prevention Team
Turning Point, Inc.

Meeting Illinois State Standards:

Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive 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 through 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, emotions, and digital safety**. Included in this Storytime will be a read-aloud as well as a follow-up coloring activity or craft.

4th and 5th Grade

A 30-minute presentation that focuses on an age-appropriate anti-violence topic such as **bullying, friendship, emotions, and digital safety**. Students will be led through an interactive presentation that emphasizes small and whole group discussions and complete an accompanying worksheet and/or activity.

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 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 debunks myths about bullying and works to examine different forms of bullying. Students will discuss the differences between traditional bullying and cyberbullying, and will learn ways they can protect themselves from both.

Fostering Healthy Friendships

This presentation utilizes discussion and practice scenarios to understand the different characteristics 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 Teen Dating Violence, including the different types of abuse and the cycle of violence. Students will discuss setting healthy boundaries and resources for when relationships are unhealthy.

Digital Safety

This presentation introduces grade-level specific digital safety topics, helping students learn and reflect on how to maintain healthy relationships and selves in their digital spaces. All presentations include information regarding finding digital balance and reporting inappropriate behavior.

- **6th Grade:** Students will learn about chatting safety online by discussing digital drama, online friends, and private information.
- **7th Grade:** Students will learn about digital footprints and discuss
- **8th Grade:** Students will review digital footprints and learn about maintaining healthy relationships online, including digital boundaries and sexting/inappropriate messaging.

Erin's Law

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

- **6th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, and consent.
- **7th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, consent, and the difference between sexual harassment and flirting.
- **8th Grade:** Students will learn about safe, unwanted, and unsafe touches, who are trusted adults, consent and coercion.

High School

Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence

This presentation focuses on identifying healthy versus unhealthy relationships. Students will learn about Teen Dating Violence, the different types of abuse, the cycle of violence, setting healthy boundaries, and available resources.

Digital Safety

This presentation highlights a variety of topics in regards to establishing and maintaining healthy relationships through digital spaces. Students will have small group and class discussions on finding digital balance, digital footprints, social media and chatting online, digital boundaries cyberbullying, and online enticement.

Erin's Law

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

- **Erin's Law Video:** Schools may also upon request be sent Turning Point Domestic Violence Services Erin's Law video for high school classes. This video comes at a flat rate, and is best used in tandem with other Turning Point presentations when possible.

Other Prevention Programming

Turning Point Domestic Violence Services also offers a selection of presentations outside of the school-day classrooms, including workshops for after-school programming and for staff education. We are always happy to present any of our normal anti-violence topic presentations outside of the classroom, or to dive deeper on specific subjects (digital abuse, boundaries, etc). These presentations come free of cost!

Tabling

Outside of direct presentations or workshops, Turning Point Domestic Violence Services is always happy to come and table. In lunchrooms or libraries or wherever seems best, we can come and set up a table to hand out information materials and have more one-on-one conversations. Turning Point most often tables in schools and around the community during October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and February for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, but is happy to discuss scheduling this any time of year.

In Their Shoes Workshop

In Their Shoes is designed for experiential learning about domestic violence. Participants move, act, think, and make choices as a person experiencing an abusive relationship. In more plain language, students will be introduced to a character and will then move through their story *in their shoes*. As the story begins, students will be able to make choices as the character, which will change how the story progresses and ends. This is a great activity to help these topics feel real and personable, and it does a wonderful job of encouraging empathy and sparking conversation. There are numerous different stories, so this can be a great fit for any type of group!

Girl's/Women's Empowerment

For 5th-7th graders, Girl's Empowerment focuses on the role that social media plays when it comes to body image and body positivity as well as self-care tactics that can be implemented to

help with fostering a positive self-image and improved self-confidence. For 8th-High school students, Women's empowerment talks about the role social media plays with body image, self-care tactics, as well as different examples of sexual harassment and aspects of consent. Both presentations focus primarily on discussion questions and practice scenarios to encourage group discussion and create a safe, open environment where girls can support one another and ask questions comfortably.

Healthy LGBTQ+ Relationships

Perfect for GSA and Pride groups, this workshop takes the typical healthy relationships and teen dating violence presentation and puts an LGBTQ+ spin on it. Middle school students will discuss finding and building a healthy community and friendships and students will practice identifying healthy versus unhealthy behavior specific to LGBTQ+ relationships. High School students will focus more on teen dating violence, and how abuse can look different (and the same) in LGBTQ+ relationships and the unique barriers survivors in this community may face.

These groups may also be interested in a In Their Shoes workshop, specific for this community. In Their Shoes is designed for experiential learning about domestic violence. Participants move, act, think, and make choices as a person experiencing an abusive relationship. This activity does a great job engaging students, encouraging empathy, and sparking many of these important conversations in a way that is often more personable and memorable for youth..

Trauma, The Brain, and Abuse in the Family

For groups more interested in some of the more technical or clinical aspects of domestic violence, we also have presentations on domestic violence as a trauma and how it impacts the brain or on how domestic / family violence can look and impact a family. These presentations can be tailored or expanded for specific interests and/or needs.

Teacher and School Staff Workshops

Turning Point Domestic Violence Services would also be happy to present directly to staff! We have introductory 101 presentations for Domestic Violence or Teen Dating Violence, presentations on both those topics that are a little more in depth with services and referrals, digital abuse and safety, and more. The more people who can recognize the warning signs, support survivors, and connect to resources the better.

****Presentation topics can always be designed or modified to fit individual audience needs and requests!**

Prevention Education FAQs:

Where do these presentations take place?

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 can help students feel more secure, fostering a supportive atmosphere for dealing with complex issues. That being said—presentations can be altered and done for large groups if necessary.

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

Teen Dating Violence (TDV) refers to 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. TDV can have serious consequences for survivors, 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 United States is a survivor of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner
- 1.5 millions high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year

What are resources that I can use to help a teen experience Teen Dating Violence?

- Turning Point Domestic Violence Services: Call 815-338-8081 or visit turnip.org
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides crisis intervention, safety planning, and referrals to local resources. Call 1-800-799-SAFE(7233) or visit thehotline.org
- Love Is Respect 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
- The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental health: Call 1-312-726-7020 ext. 2011 or visit their website nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org

Do Turning Point 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 program aligns 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.

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 upon request. 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 has implemented a fee structure for Erin's Law presentations. 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. The current rate for these presentations is \$35 per presentation for Elementary schools and \$45 per presentation for Middle and High schools. 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 students, the focus might be on understanding personal boundaries, safe and unsafe touch and secrets, and whom to trust. Older students 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 through the session.

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 them time to check-in with themselves. 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.

Is there follow-up support available?

All students middle school and up will be asked to complete a survey at the end of the presentation, where they have the opportunity to ask an anonymous question. The response to this question will be sent to the classroom teacher to return to the class. The survey also provides a number of direct links to resources students may turn to for support when experiencing unhealthy or abusive relationships. Anyone seeking additional support is always welcome to call the Turning Point Helpline at 815-338-8081

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

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