



FORT MONTGOMERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PO Box 287, Highland Falls, NY 10928

Location: Rte. 895 9W Fort Montgomery, NY

(845) 446-1008

Ms. Jacqueline Rodriguez, Principal

October 5, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You are receiving this letter to inform you of required health and safety instructions your child will receive in the 2023-24 school year.

In August 2019, New York State became the 37<sup>th</sup> state to sign Erin's Law into legislation. New York State's law – known as Erin's Law – requires public schools to teach child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention. Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse who has advocated for similar laws nationwide for over a decade. This curriculum is intended to help children, teachers and parents in New York State schools identify sexual abuse and to provide awareness, assistance, referral or resource information for children and families who are victims of sexual abuse.

Below are links that give more insight into the legislation and benchmarks that are required to be taught. As you can see, most of the benchmarks are part of health and safety lessons your child normally receives in various formats throughout the school year. In the near future, our team will be delivering this instruction to students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

This topic can cause concern for families as it is a difficult topic to talk about and also to hear as a young child. Each of the age appropriate lessons given to students are delivered by our professional teaching and support staff such as nurses, physical education teachers, social workers and school counselors. While this may be an uncomfortable topic, the common denominator in all of the lessons are about safety as it relates to their own body, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, internet safety, trusted adults, personal boundaries and personal choices.

We encourage you to discuss these topics with your child and partner with us as a resource in ensuring your child's overall health and safety. For more information regarding Erin's Law and parent resources, please see the links below.

[New York State Erin's Law - Benchmarks and Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Erin's Law - Parent Resources](#)

[Erin's Law Video](#)

If you still have any questions or concerns with this required curriculum, please contact your child's support staff at their designated building.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rodriguez  
Principal