

Erin's Law, SB 856, Overview – Day 1

To share with students:

One of the efforts that's important for our AG, our school, and our world, is that we take care of each other. Lots of Oregonians, including legislators and resource centers, felt strongly that a critical part of being able to do this was by educating students about *Sex Abuse Prevention and Healthy Sexuality*. They felt so strongly about it that Oregon Senate Bill 856, or Erin's Law, was put in place. This week during AG, we'll complete a variety of tasks aimed at providing information that could lead to increased awareness and empowerment.

Check for questions.

I. Some of the topics can be difficult or complex for students and staff so it's critically important that we do our best to make sure our AG is committed to respect and sensitivity during the activities this week.

Objective: Craft a classroom agreement that promotes respect and security.

What are some ideas for statements that we should agree on before moving forward? Ask students to justify their reasoning. Allow for comment and agreement before publishing a behavior standard.

Sample Topics:

- How to disagree appropriately
- How to defer participating
- What respectful dialogue looks and sounds like
- How to support each other

Record classroom agreement using personal preference. Agreements will need to be reviewed so keep them available throughout the week. Check for understanding and commitment to the classroom agreement. Adjust as needed.

II. Review the schedule or timeline for the week. (review/display if possible)

III. Icebreaker Facts

- Divide students into small groups
- Provide each group with a statement (below) and ask them to discuss it in their group. Remind them it's their first opportunity to use the classroom agreement.
- Sample prompts:
 - Did the information surprise you? Why or why not?
 - What factors do you think influence it?
 - Why is this a problem?
 - How does this information impact other topics?

- Statements:
 - One in three adolescents is a victim of emotional, physical or sexual abuse from a dating partner.
 - Dating abuse affects around 1.5 million teens annually.
 - Healthy sexuality is having a respectful relationship with one's own sexual feelings and honoring intimacy, trust, honesty, open communication, and self-determination.
 - Any sexual activity that occurs without consent is sexual assault.
 - Contrary to popular belief, most sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances, not strangers.
 - Consent can only occur when the consenting person is not incapacitated by drug or alcohol consumption.
 - The absence of a 'NO' is not consent.
 - Most sexual assaults take place in the home of either the victim or the assailant, or in some territory that is familiar to both.
 - Blaming the victim in cases of sexual assault is so prevalent that many survivors experience feelings of guilt and shame after they are assaulted.
 - People often contribute to a survivor's feelings of guilt by trying to find some explanation for the attack.

Sources: *In touch with teens: Relationship Violence Prevention Curriculum, 2nd edition*, <http://www.loveisrespect.org/educators-toolkits/>

Closure:

- Check in with each group re: how the conversations went. Be aware of the possible need debrief students or refer (to the counseling center). Group share out if appropriate. Remember: the goal is only to provide information.
- Review the group agreement implementation and ask for any edits or updates to the agreement.
- Allow for down time/casual conversations as students prepare to exit AG.