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"Erin's Law" & "Gavin's Law" Mandates Sexual Abuse / Extortion Awareness Programs in all South Carolina Schools

Section 59-32-20(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws was amended June 2014 (H.4061, Act 293) to read that the State Board of Education through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) shall support districts in providing age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade. Per the requirements of Gavin's Law (August 2023), Act 54 of 2023, local school districts shall collaborate with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Attorney General's office, as appropriate, to implement a policy to educate and notify students of the provisions of Gavin's Law. It is the Department's recommendation that school districts incorporate the requirements of Gavin's Law into the Erin's Law curriculum and give age-appropriate instruction on the dangers and consequences of sexual extortion to satisfy the requirements for student notification.

Erin's Law requires all schools to provide child sexual abuse prevention education for all students, K-12, yearly. The law also requires educators to take part in training classes that cover sexual abuse and how to recognize warning signs. The curriculum used during Erin's Law presentation was developed by the South Carolina Department of Education and is available for parents to view prior to the presentation for (K-8). For grades 9-12 BPS has partnered with Hopeful Horizons to educate students about sexual abuse, extortion, as well as making healthy life/relationship choices.

- *On March 10th all 9th through 12th graders will meet from 8:00am to 9:00 am in their Homeroom.*

All students will be receiving a 45 minute, age appropriate, informative video presentation with representatives from Hopeful Horizons. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rebecca Carrington (School Counselor) or Daniel Tooman (Principal) (dtooman@bridgesprep.org).

Parents have the right to not allow their child to participate in the Erin's Law/Gavin's Law presentation. In that case, parents are to complete the following statement and return this letter to Mrs. Rebecca Carrington (via email or hard copy) no later than midnight on February 28th, 2023. **Only students who are NOT to participate in the lesson should return letters. These students will still be required to attend school and will be marked absent if they are not present during this time.**

I hereby request that my child _____

(printed student name)

who attends Bridges Preparatory School, **opt-out** of participation in the Erin's Law/Gavin's Law sexual abuse/extortion prevention presentation for the ___2023-2024___ school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

CC: A copy of this letter will be placed in the student's Permanent Record.