

RCW 28A.300.160 Coordinated program for the prevention of sexual abuse of students, child abuse, and neglect. (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall be the lead agency and shall assist the department of children, youth, and families and school districts in establishing a coordinated program for the prevention of sexual abuse of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, child abuse, and neglect.

(b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must, for any curriculum included within a program for the prevention of sexual abuse of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, seek advice and comments regarding the curriculum from:

- (i) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- (ii) The Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;
- (iii) The Washington state school directors' association;
- (iv) The association of Washington school principals;
- (v) The center for children and youth justice;
- (vi) Youthcare;
- (vii) The committee for children;
- (viii) The office of crime victim advocacy in the department of commerce; and

(ix) Other relevant organizations.

(2) In developing the program, consideration shall be given to the following:

(a) Parent, teacher, and children's workshops whose information and training is:

- (i) Provided in a clear, age-appropriate, nonthreatening manner, delineating the problem and the range of possible solutions;
- (ii) Culturally and linguistically appropriate to the population served;
- (iii) Appropriate to the geographic area served; and
- (iv) Designed to help counteract common stereotypes about the sexual abuse of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, child abuse victims, and offenders;

(b) Training for school-age children's parents and school staff, which includes:

- (i) Physical and behavioral indicators of abuse;
- (ii) Crisis counseling techniques;
- (iii) Community resources;
- (iv) Rights and responsibilities regarding reporting;
- (v) School district procedures to facilitate reporting and apprise supervisors and administrators of reports; and
- (vi) Caring for a child's needs after a report is made;

(c) Training for licensed day care providers and parents that includes:

- (i) Positive child guidance techniques;
 - (ii) Physical and behavioral indicators of abuse;
 - (iii) Recognizing and providing safe, quality day care;
 - (iv) Community resources;
 - (v) Rights and responsibilities regarding reporting; and
 - (vi) Caring for the abused or neglected child;
- (d) Training for children that includes:
- (i) The right of every child to live free of abuse;
 - (ii) How to disclose incidents of abuse and neglect;
 - (iii) The availability of support resources and how to obtain help;

(iv) Child safety training and age-appropriate self-defense techniques; and

(v) A period for crisis counseling and reporting immediately following the completion of each children's workshop in a school setting which maximizes the child's privacy and sense of safety.

(3) The coordinated prevention program established under this section is a voluntary program and is not part of the state's program of basic education.

(4) Parents shall be given notice of the coordinated prevention program and may refuse to have their children participate in the program. [2018 c 64 § 3; 1995 c 399 § 21; 1987 c 489 § 3. Formerly RCW 28A.03.514.]

Findings—Intent—2018 c 64: "(1) The legislature recognizes that every child should experience emotional and physical development that is free from abuse and neglect. In 2015, Washington child protective services received reports screened in for investigation that alleged the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or both, of two thousand six hundred three children. Further, the legislature finds that most sexual assaults are unreported. The legislature also finds that a clear relationship exists between youth victimization and mental health problems and delinquent behavior.

(2) The legislature finds that thirty-one states have enacted Erin's laws. Erin's laws, named in honor of a childhood sexual assault survivor, are intended to help children, teachers, and parents identify sexual abuse, and to provide assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse. The legislation adopted in these states requires the study or development of age-appropriate child sexual abuse identification and prevention.

(3) The legislature finds that the federal every student succeeds act, P.L. 114-95, as signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, provides federal funding that can be used for the implementation of programs established in accordance with Erin's laws.

(4) The legislature, therefore, intends to incorporate curriculum for the prevention of sexual abuse of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, such as Erin's law, into an existing statewide coordinated program for the prevention of child abuse and neglect." [2018 c 64 § 1.]

Intent—1987 c 489: See note following RCW 28A.300.150.