September 2025
Dear Parents,

Many states, including Illinois, have passed a law with the intent of increasing the awareness of child sexual abuse. You may have heard of this legislation under its more common name, *Erin's Law*, in honor of Erin Merryn, a young woman who has crossed the country advocating for laws that will increase awareness of this crime against children. One of the requirements of this law is that schools provide an age appropriate curriculum to all students relating to sexual abuse prevention. The purpose of the lessons is to provide students with the tools they need for personal safety, and to help them build confidence in advocating for themselves.

Developmentally appropriate lessons will be conducted with Hough Street 1st - 5th grade students the week of September 15th. The lessons will be taught by Mrs. Megan Gonzalez (social worker) and Mr. Ryan Warrington (psychologist). Your child's teacher will also be present during this presentation. We want your child to have the knowledge and skills to use if he or she is ever affected by sexual violence. The lessons are designed to empower and educate them. The presentations will discuss the following concepts in 20 – 30 minute sessions:

- Safe touch, unsafe touch, and unwanted touch.
- The touching rule (No one should touch your private parts except to keep you clean and healthy).
- Identifying and learning how to tell safe, trusted adults.
- No fault for kids when someone violates these rules.

Together we can make sure our children have the right to be safe and know where to go if they are not. District 220 believes that all of our students will benefit from participating in these lessons. If you **do not** wish for your child to participate, please email your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, September 12th.

If you have any questions about *Erin's Law* or the content of the lessons, please feel free to contact Mrs. Gonzalez or Mr. Warrington.

Yours truly,
Heather Schumacher
Principal
Hough Street Elementary School