

Student Services Department
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Date: September 15th, 2025

To: Dr. Robert Halverson, Superintendent of Schools

East Aurora School District 131 Board of Education

From: Dr. Laura Erlenbaugh, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Differentiation

Subject: Erin's Law Mutual Ground Expansion

Issue:

In compliance with Erin's Law, Illinois districts are required to provide age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention education to students annually. East Aurora has an established partnership with Mutual Ground to provide this training to students in grades 6–12. However, for students in Early Learning to fifth grade, East Aurora social workers have provided this prevention education.

Justification:

Logistical barriers, including scheduling demands and the need for Spanish translation, have limited the ability of social work teams to deliver Erin's Law training in a timely manner for younger students. Mutual Ground has developed age-appropriate lessons designed specifically for younger learners. The training for Early Learning through fifth-grade focuses on personal body safety, with topics such as trusted adults and who owns your body. These sessions introduce safety concepts in a sensitive and developmentally appropriate manner. In addition, Mutual Ground employs trained bilingual staff to ensure that all students are able to access and benefit from the training.

Board Policy and Past Practice:

East Aurora School District 131 Board of Education (BOE) Policy 6:60 outlines that students will receive age-appropriate and evidence-informed sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in all grades.

Strategic Plan:

This proposal supports Strategic Goal #1, Educational Equity: East Aurora School District 131 will meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Cost:

The cost to add Mutual Ground to provide this service to Early Learning through fifth-grade is \$21,965. The cost for the Mutual Ground expansion would be grant-funded through IDEA.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the expansion of our use of Mutual Ground for Early Learning through Fifth Grade.

Timeline for Decision:

October 6, 2025