

# SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section	SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS		
Policy Name	ERIN'S LAW: SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING Procedural Guideline Applies		549
Board Approved:	_____	Reviewed: _____	Review By: December 2030

## PREAMBLE

The Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB) is committed to building an inclusive community where every student, family, and staff member feels respected, valued, and connected. We foster wellbeing by creating safe, caring, and supportive environments that promote mental, emotional, and social health. We believe that learning should spark curiosity and joy, and we strive to nurture innovative, engaging, and creative learning experiences that inspire every learner to reach their full potential.

All Board policies shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with applicable legislation, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Board's commitments to equity, inclusion, accessibility, and reconciliation.

## PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Board maintains safe environments and meets its legal obligations under the Education Act. 170.0.1 (Erin's Law) to prevent child sexual abuse.

This policy applies to all pupils enrolled in SGDSB schools, all SGDSB employees, including teachers, early childhood educators, administrators, and support staff, as well as to all school sites, Board-operated programs, and virtual environments. Additionally, it applies to all parents and guardians of SGDSB pupils.

## DEFINITIONS

**Child Sexual Abuse** refers to any sexual act directed toward a child, whether or not physical contact occurs, where the child does not or cannot give consent, or where the behaviour is coerced through manipulation, threats, or emotional pressure. It includes a broad range of actions such as inappropriate touching, exposing a child to sexual content or sexual acts, making sexually explicit comments, or using technology to request or share sexually explicit images involving a child.

**Trusted Adults** are safe, approachable, and reliable persons whom a child believes will listen, take their concerns seriously, and act in their best interest. A trusted adult provides support without judgment, responds calmly, and helps the child access protection or assistance when needed. Trusted adults may include family members, teachers, school staff, caregivers, or other responsible adults with whom the child feels secure and respected.

## POLICY

The SGDSB will ensure that all students receive annual, developmentally appropriate education on child sexual abuse prevention and reporting, including:

- Skills to recognize unsafe situations and inappropriate behaviour;
- Age-appropriate language and strategies to seek help;
- Guidance on identifying trusted adults and understanding personal boundaries.

The Board will also ensure that information and resources on child sexual abuse prevention, reporting processes, and available counselling supports are:

- Made available to all parents and guardians; and
- Provided annually to all teachers and other staff.

## ***ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

Superintendents of Education will:

- Oversee developmentally appropriate student engagement materials and resources; and
- Ensure principals receive the support needed to implement the policy.

Principals will:

- Ensure annual student engagement occurs;
- Ensure information is provided to staff and made available to parents/guardians; and
- Maintain records of implementation and reporting.

Teachers and Other Staff

- Participate in training and annual information sessions.
- Deliver student engagement activities when required.
- Follow mandatory reporting duties under Child, Youth, and Family Services Act (CYFSA).

## ***REVIEW***

This policy will be reviewed on a cyclical basis, as outlined in SGDSB Policy P-214, or earlier per the Education Act, s. 170.0.1(4).

<i>Related Policies</i>	<i>Legal &amp; Policy Framework</i>
P-510 – Suspected Child Abuse SGDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol	Policy/Program Memorandum 9 – Duty to Report Children in Need of Protection Education Act, s. 170.0.1 (Erin's Law) Child, Youth, and Family Services Act, s.125