



**Midlands Middle College
Gavin's Law Policy
(Sexual Extortion)**

Approved Date: January 17, 2024

Midlands Middle College ("MMC") is committed to the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff. Priority is given to the safety of our school in accordance with SC state laws. MMC is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from intimidating or harassing behavior of any kind, including sexual extortion. MMC prohibits any student, staff, or third parties from engaging in any behavior that would satisfy the definition of sexual extortion or aggravated sexual extortion as described in state law (S.C. Code Section 16-15-430). MMC will not tolerate retaliation against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging sexual extortion or who has participated as a witness in an investigation.

In line with this commitment, the following policy has been developed and implemented as required by Erin's Law, S.C. Code Section 59-32-20 and 59-32-30(G) and Gavin's Law, S.C. Code Section 16-15-430.

Definitions:

Great bodily injury means bodily injury which causes a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

Private image means an image depicting sexually explicit nudity, sexual activity, or sexual conduct as defined in state law.

Sexual extortion means intentionally and maliciously threatening to release, exhibit, or distribute a private image of another in order to compel or attempt to compel the victim to do any actor refrain from doing an act against his/her will, with the intent to obtain additional private images or anything else of value.

Collaboration with Relevant Authorities:

Per the requirements of Gavin's Law, MMC will collaborate with the following entities: State Department of Education, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, the South Carolina Public Charter School District, and the Attorney General's office as needed to facilitate the proper execution of this law within our school.

MMC will also work with community organizations, and mental health professionals to ensure a coordinated response to incidents of child abuse, bullying, harassment, and extortion. Together, we will work towards preventing such incidents and supporting affected students.



MMC will actively engage parents and guardians through regular communication, workshops, and resources, to create a united effort in promoting student safety and well-being.

Prevention Education:

MMC will incorporate age-appropriate prevention education programs into our curriculum (Erin's Law Curriculum) that address child sexual abuse, assault, exploitation, and extortion. These programs will be tailored to different grade levels to ensure students receive the information in an age-sensitive manner.

MMC will regularly conduct awareness campaigns to educate students, parents, and staff about the signs, risks, and prevention of child sexual abuse, bullying, and extortion. These campaigns will aim to foster a culture of openness, trust, and mutual support within our school community.

Student Notification:

To satisfy the requirements for student notification of Gavin's Law, the following steps shall be taken:

- **Incorporation into Erin's Law Curriculum:** MMC is committed to incorporating the provisions of Gavin's Law into the Erin's Law curriculum. Age-appropriate instruction on the dangers and consequences of sexual extortion shall be provided to all our students.

- **Adequate Notice:** MMC will ensure that all students receive adequate notice of Gavin's Law and its implications. This notice may be delivered through classroom instruction, presentations, informational materials, or other appropriate means.

Notification to Parents or Guardians and School Personnel: To keep parents or guardians, as well as school personnel, informed about Gavin's Law and its implications, MMC shall use our preferred notification methods, such as newsletters, emails, parent-teacher conferences, or staff meetings, to inform parents or guardians and school personnel of the changes in the law and the school's compliance efforts.

Public Notification:

To inform the public about Gavin's Law and MMC's response, this policy will be posted on the official school website. This will provide full visibility and accessibility to parents, guardians, students, school personnel and the general public as required by state law.

Reporting and Documentation:

MMC will establish multiple safe and confidential reporting channels, such as trusted staff members, anonymous hotlines, or online platforms, to encourage students to report any incidents of abuse, bullying, harassment, or extortion without fear of reprisal. Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual extortion is encouraged to file a complaint through one of these



channels. All staff members are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal. Reports by students or staff may be made anonymously.

Upon receiving any reports, MMC will ensure a prompt and thorough investigation, adhering to all legal requirements and protecting the privacy of all parties involved to the extent legally possible.

MMC prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or staff member who has filed a complaint or report of sexual extortion, bullying, or harassment. MMC also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another as a means of intimidation, bullying, or harassment.

Staff Training and Support:

All school staff, including teachers, administrators, and support personnel, will receive annual training on recognizing and responding to signs of child sexual abuse, bullying, harassment, and extortion. This training will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students effectively.

MMC will foster a supportive environment where students feel comfortable reaching out to trusted adults. Staff members will be trained to listen, believe, and respond empathetically to students who disclose abuse, bullying, harassment, and/or extortion.

School Discipline Action:

Students, staff, parents/legal guardians, contract and other workers, volunteers, visitors, and other members of the public are required to comply with this policy. MMC will enforce this policy through appropriate disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook and/or required by law enforcement officials.

Review and Updates:

This policy shall be reviewed regularly to ensure ongoing compliance with Gavin's Law and to make necessary updates in response to changing requirements or best practices.

Compliance Oversight:

MMC shall appoint a designated individual or committee responsible for overseeing and ensuring compliance with this policy. This entity shall also serve as a point of contact for any questions or concerns related to Gavin's Law.

By implementing this policy, we aim to ensure the safety, well-being, and success of all our students. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every student feels protected, valued, and empowered to thrive.