Notice to Parents/Guardians of Students Enrolled in Family Life Sexual Health Ed. & Other Courses

Date: August 28, 2017
To: Parent/Guardian of:
   «Student_First_Name» «Student_Last_Name»
   «F1_Address_Line_1»
   «F1_City_State_Zip»
CC: Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent
Re: Courses on Family Life Instruction; Sex Education; Sexually Transmitted Infections; HIV & AIDS; Preventing Sexual Abuse

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Peoria Public Schools collaborates with community partners to provide sexual health education curriculum in grades 5-9. These community partners include Peoria City/County Health Department, Hult Center for Healthy Living, and the Center for Prevention of Abuse. The curriculum used is the Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH) curriculum.

Illinois State law states that all sex education instruction is to be age-appropriate, evidence-based, and medically accurate. The National Sexual Health Education Standards were used in the development of the FLASH curriculum to confirm age-appropriate content. The purpose of sexual health education courses is to promote a comprehensive understanding of the emotional, mental, physical, and social responsibilities of sexual health, and for grades 6 through 9, the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The 5th grade programs present the normal physical, social, and emotional changes that occur during puberty.

Please be aware that your student will be receiving instruction on one or more of the following topics during the 2017-2018 school year: the prevention, transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections; family life instruction; sex education; preventing sexual abuse. Pre-testing in your child’s class(es) will begin the week of September 11th, 2017 for grades 6-8 for fall programming, and the week of January 15th, 2018 for spring programming. Students will be exposed to vocabulary and lesson content during testing, but they will not receive any classroom instruction at that time. Each school will have its own instruction schedule.

No student is required to participate in any class on the prevention, transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS; sexually transmitted infections; family life instruction; sex education; preventing sexual abuse programs, if the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) submit a written objection to the student’s participation in the curriculum. Refusal to take or participate in such courses shall not be grounds for failing, suspending, or expelling a student. No other penalty shall be imposed for refusal to participate in such programs.

You have the right to request an examination of the instructional materials to be used in these courses. If you wish to examine the course materials, and/or if do not want your child to participate in the above-referenced classes or courses, please complete the waiver form, which can be found on our district website under health curriculum information at www.peoriapublicschools.org/Page/23159 - or obtain a copy of the “Request to Examine Course Material/Class Attendance Waiver” form from your school office and return in within five (5) days.

If you are interested in your student’s school schedule for sexual health education programming, please visit the district website: www.peoriapublicschools.org/Page/24276

The next page is an outlined overview of each lesson topic per grade.
The following is a content outline of the topics covered in each grade, 5 through 9:

5th Grade:
- Male Puberty and Hygiene Education
- Female Puberty and Hygiene Education

6th Grade:
- Reproductive System and Pregnancy
- Undoing Gender Stereotypes
- Rules of Dating
- Saying No (Abstinence)
- Communication and Decision Making
- Erin’s Law- Sexual Abuse Prevention

7th Grade:
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Reproductive System and Pregnancy
- Preventing STIs
- Coercion and Consent
- Online Safety
- Erin’s Law- Sexual Abuse Prevention

8th Grade:
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Healthy Relationships
- Testing for HIV and Other STIs
- Condoms to Prevent HIV and Other STIs
- Birth Control Methods
- Erin’s Law- Sexual Abuse Prevention

9th Grade:
- Birth Control Methods
- Preventing HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Condoms to Prevent Pregnancy, HIV and Other STIs

**ALL Courses that discuss sexual activity/intercourse place substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Courses will emphasize that abstinence is the healthiest option for teens, and a responsible and positive decision that is the only 100% effective prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.**

Sincerely,

Maureen Langholf
Director, Special Education and School Health Services