

## **Notification to Parents/Guardians about Sexual Health Education**

Sexuality education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs, and values about identity, relationships, and intimacy. It encompasses sexual development, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image, and gender roles.

Parents can be one of the best educators on sexuality education. Schools provide background and parents provide values. Studies show that kids who feel they can talk with their parents about sex, because their moms and dads speak openly and listen carefully to them, are less likely to engage in high-risk behavior as teens than kids who do not feel they can talk with their parents about the subject.

The Huron Intermediate School District Board of Education has approved a program of instruction, which includes HIV/AIDS, STDs and other serious communicable disease prevention education and sexuality education. The course is divided into two parts.

According to Michigan law, parents have the right to review the materials, observe instruction, and study curriculum content to be used in the Reproductive Health Class. The Board of Education, in compliance with the statute, has made this available for your review. You can review the Reproductive Health Class lessons we use at the [Seattle and King County Public Health website](#). You can also write any requests for more information on the permission slip available on our website or call Pam Fry at 989-269-3462.

Part 1 of this class begins in October and is about appropriate personal relationships and what students should know to prevent them from being taken advantage of in a variety of situations. It teaches about safety issues, harassment, bullies, and whether to talk to, touch, and/or trust a person, depending on how close they are to you and how long you have known them. The first section ends with puberty and sexual health and hygiene.

Part 2 of this class, beginning in January and ending in April, is about reproduction. This part of the class includes information about abstinence, having intercourse, condoms, graphic pictures of STDs and AIDS and HIV. Some of the students who greatly benefit from the 1st part of this class are not ready for the 2nd part. However, some students are ready and need to know about all aspects of reproduction and sexual health to stay safe and knowledgeable. Please indicate on the permission slip if you would like your child to participate or not participate in the second part of the class on reproduction.

This statute allows you to excuse your child from participation in classes that include HIV and other serious communicable disease prevention instruction, as well as sex education if you choose. If you wish to exercise your right to excuse your child from instruction without penalty, please state that by checking the appropriate line at the bottom of the permission slip.

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