



**Rochester City School District**

**Rochester City School District**  
**Health, Physical Education & Athletics**  
131 West Broad Street  
Rochester, New York 14614  
[www.rcsdk12.org](http://www.rcsdk12.org)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Your child is taking Health Education this year. Health is a required course in both middle and high school. Part of the Health Education Curriculum is teaching Human Sexuality and Family Life. Our health curriculum has been developed by District staff, parents and community partners and was approved by our District Board of Education and Health Advisory Council. The curriculum was written to meet New York State Standards and provide students with information about human development, sexuality and family life.

In developing the program, we have taken care to respect the primary role of the family in teaching young people about sexuality. The health curriculum is intended to support, not substitute for, the information and understandings, which you, as parents or guardians, provide your teenagers at home.

If you wish, you may request that your child be excused from the teaching of the Human Sexuality and Family Life Curriculum, with the exception of the teaching of the nature and transmission of HIV/AIDS. This written request must be filed with your school principal. In addition, the district will ask health teachers to build the following into their instruction:

- ❖ Health teachers will be available to meet with students individually to discuss topics covered in the program.
- ❖ Health teachers will provide an opportunity for students to submit written questions anonymously. Teachers will use their discretion in determining how the questions will be answered.
- ❖ Before beginning instruction, each health teacher will explain to the class that any student has the right not to take part in a group activity or discussion if the topic makes them feel uncomfortable.
- ❖ Health teachers will be aware of and sensitive to their students' cultural and religious beliefs and values.

You are invited to contact your child's health teacher and make an appointment to review the curriculum materials being used. Our District believes that with this curriculum our students will make informed health decisions leading to a healthy lifestyle and academic success.

Sincerely,

*Chris Corey*

Chris Corey, Director  
Physical Education & Health