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BOARD OF EDUCATION

School District 189

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Arthur R. Culver
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In East St. Louis School District 189, health education classes include skills and lessons on:

- Violence and injury prevention
- Mental health
- Tobacco
- Alcohol and drugs
- Goal-setting and decision-making
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs
- Communication and relationships
- Sexuality
- Health and hygiene
- Emotional health
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Personal and consumer health

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requires that sex education lessons need to be developmentally and age appropriate, medically accurate, evidence-based and complete. Comprehensive sex education offered in grades 6 through 12 includes topics such as puberty; dating; relationships and communication skills; pregnancy; birth control; abortion; homosexuality; prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; and prevention of sexual abuse. Required course materials are based on scientific research. If you would like to learn more about our curriculum, the instructional materials are available for review at the Board of Education or through your child's health teacher.

During the course, students will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually and in an age-appropriate manner. Each student's privacy will be respected, and no one will be put on the spot to ask or answer questions or reveal personal information. Material will be presented in a balanced, factual way that makes clear that people may have strong religious and moral beliefs about issues such as birth control and abortion, and that these beliefs must be respected.

We know the students and families we serve have a range of beliefs. Family values are essential guidelines for your child's life. Parents and guardians are a child's first and most influential teachers. We encourage parents to have conversations with their children about what they are learning in health education class.

Under Illinois law and School Committee policy, you have the option to request that your child be exempt and NOT be taught these lessons. Please write a letter to the principal informing him/her of any lesson(s) that you do not want taught to your child. We may provide an alternative assignment to students who are exempt.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a positive and educationally enriching experience this school year. Parents, guardians and schools share a common goal – we want every student to be healthy in all aspects of their lives. If you have any questions about sex education or any other matter concerning your child's education, please call your school principal.

Sincerely,


Arthur R. Culver