



Dear Parents & Guardians,

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education were revised in 2020 to address the need for students to gain knowledge and skills in caring for themselves, interact effectively with others, and analyze the impact of choices and consequences. These standards can be accessed at <https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2020/2020%20NJSLS-CHPE.pdf>. We value the importance of partnering with families as we educate students in the knowledge, and skills they will need in order to live a healthy life.

We invite you to examine and discuss this information with your child prior to the instructional units at school. Specifically, the content related to family life education. The curriculum will be available on the district website. You are welcome to contact your child's Physical Education/Health Teacher to preview the lessons that will be taught to your student(s).

All topics are taught in an age, grade, and developmental manner. The Kindergarten-12th Grade Curriculums will cover topics outlined in the [2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education document](#).

The Mercer County Special Services School District acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary family life educators for their child/children and we are committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary resources to support you in this role.

Although we encourage families to have their student(s) participate in these health topics, we want to acknowledge that Parents/Guardians do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of sexuality/family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, morally, or religiously held beliefs (Statute below). If this is the case, please email your student's principal with your student's name, ID number, grade, and school to notify which subject(s) (*health, family life education, or sex education*) you are opting your student(s) out of OR you may complete the form below and submit to your building principal. Students who are excused will be assigned to a separate classroom for the duration of those identified lessons.



Section: 18A:35-4.7: Parent's statement of conflict with conscience: Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom. L.1979, c. 428, s. 2, eff. Feb. 11, 1980.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen Taylor".

Kristen Taylor, Ed.S
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Principal _____,

I wish for my child, _____, to be excused from the following topics of the health/family life/sex education (circle topics) lesson(s) due to moral, ethical and/or religious beliefs:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Health Teacher _____