

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are pleased to announce the “Curriculum Connection”, a companion for parents and guardians to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Sexual Health Education Curriculum. CPS recognizes that parents are the first and most important educators of sexual health. While it is important for students to learn factual information about sexual health topics in school, we encourage and support parents and guardians in discussing with their children all sexual health related topics including their personal and family values.

The majority of teens say that their parents are the most influential in their decisions about sex. Furthermore, 87% of teens report it would be easier to delay sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they could have open, honest conversations with their parents about these topics (National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2012). Having open and honest conversations from early childhood helps enable the conversations later during adolescence and beyond.

The CPS Sexual Health Education Curriculum has a lesson sequence that aligns with the National Sexuality Education Standards (NSES). These standards define the essential, medically- accurate, age-appropriate information for healthy sexual health decision-making and safety and include the topics: personal safety, anatomy and physiology, healthy relationships, puberty and adolescent development, identity, pregnancy and reproduction, sexually transmitted disease and HIV. The relevant lessons promote abstinence, not having sex, as the only way to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted disease and HIV.

In the Curriculum Connection, parents and guardians can find a summary of what their child will learn in each grade, the NSES Standards met, suggested activities, conversation starters, and additional resources.

We hope to give our students all the tools necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health. CPS recognizes partnering with parents and guardians is very important in achieving this goal. We encourage you to use the Curriculum Connection to help you talk to your children about sexual health, relationships and personal safety.

Please contact your child’s sexual health education instructor and/ or the Office of Student Health and Wellness with any questions at SexualHealthEd@cps.edu.

In Health,

Office of Student Health and Wellness

Contact Us at:

773-553-3560 | SexualHealthEd@cps.edu