

- Required  
 Local  
 Notice

### AIDS INSTRUCTION

The district will provide age appropriate classroom instruction in compliance with commissioner's regulations, for all students K-12 concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Instruction will be provided as part of the sequential and comprehensive health program and shall include the following information:

1. the nature of the disease;
2. methods of transmission of the disease; and
3. methods of prevention of the disease stressing abstinence as the most effective and appropriate protection against AIDS.

A student shall be excused from that segment of AIDS instruction regarding methods of prevention of the disease if his/her parent/guardian files a request with the Building Principal. The request must give assurance that such instruction will be given at home.

The Board of Education shall be responsible for determining the content of the district's AIDS curriculum, approving its implementation and evaluating the AIDS instructional program. In addition, the Board will ensure appropriate training and curriculum materials are provided for the instructional staff providing AIDS instruction and to parents who request such materials.

The Board shall establish an advisory council which shall be responsible for making recommendations on content, implementation, and evaluation of the AIDS instructional program. The advisory council must consist of Board members, appropriate school personnel, parents and community representatives, including representatives from religious organizations.

Ref: Education Law §3204(5)  
8 NYCRR §135.3 (Health Education incl. AIDS instruction)  
*Ware v. Valley Stream High School District*, 75 NY2d 114 (1989)  
*New York State School Boards Association v. Sobol*, 168 AD2d 188 (1991)  
*Matter of Knowledge*, 32 EDR 451 (1993) (function of advisory councils)

Adoption Date: December 13, 2011

**AIDS INSTRUCTION EXHIBIT**

[DATE]

Dear Fifth &amp; Sixth Grade Parents:

We are pleased to announce that we will be conducting important programs with regards to our children's growth and development: *"Talking to Kids about Puberty"* and *"HIV/AIDS"* address the physical growth, sexual development, health values and habits for boys and girls in the fifth and sixth grades. Issues relating to growing up will be discussed and how the development of open and honest communication skills will enable children to deal with the many difficult issues and challenges that they may face as a result of growing up. Valuable information on topics such as teasing, self-acceptance, respecting differences in others, and peer pressure will be presented. In addition, your child will have an opportunity to talk about the feelings, pressures, concerns, changes, and challenges that are a part of growing up.

The combination of the Puberty Program and HIV/AIDS Program provide a comprehensive program of instruction in positive health values and habits. Students will act in ways that promote their own healthy growth and development, and avoid acts that may bring harm or injury. The program will reinforce the value of nurturing relationships that occur within the family life.

The HIV/AIDS Program will be presented to the fifth and sixth grade students on [DATE] and the Puberty Program will be presented to to fifth and sixth grade students on [DATE]. Students will be grouped by grade and gender for the programs. We will conduct an overview of the puberty program for all district parents on [DAY], [DATE] at [TIME] in **the Band Room at East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School**. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

The Commissioner of the New York State Department of Education issued a regulation that permits parents to opt their children out of the aforementioned presentations and lessons if they choose to, provided that parents provide this instruction at home. If you choose to exercise this option, please complete the attached "opt-out form" and forward this form to your child's classroom teacher prior to the scheduled programs.

We hope that our students will benefit immensely from the programs we have scheduled, and we hope to keep parents well informed. Please phone me should you have any questions regarding these programs. We look forward to seeing and meeting with you on [DAY] evening, [DATE] at [TIME] in the Band Room at East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School.

Sincerely yours,

[NAME,] Principal

Copy: [NAME] Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics  
[NAME] School Social Worker

East Rockaway Public Schools

# “Opt Out Form”

- I do not wish my child to participate in the program entitled “Talking to Kids About Puberty.”
  
- I do not wish my child to participate in the program entitled “HIV/AIDS.”

In accordance with New York Commissioner’s Regulation, Part 135, I agree to provide this instruction at home.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* If you do not want your child to participate, please return this “opt out form” with your signature prior to the scheduled programs.