

FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Gary A. Rosato, Ed.D.
Principal

Ken Seltzer
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RE: Health Education / AIDS instruction

August 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is currently receiving instruction in Health as part of his/her Unified Arts Program. One component of this curriculum is a series of lessons on AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. While we understand that this can be a sensitive topic for some families to discuss, we are also finding that it is becoming more and more important for us to make sure our students are given accurate and updated information.

Furthermore, the State Department of Education mandates that all public schools in Connecticut include AIDS instruction in their program of studies, and Public Act 98-112 amends Section 10-19 of the Connecticut General Statutes by adding subsection (c) as follows:

Commencing July 1, 1989, each local and regional board of education shall offer during the regular school day planned, ongoing and systematic instruction on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as taught by legally qualified teachers. The content and scheduling of the instruction shall be within the discretion of the local or regional board of education. Not later than July 1, 1989, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the exemption of pupils from such instruction upon written request of the parent or guardian. The State Board of Education shall make materials available to assist local and regional boards of education in developing instruction pursuant to this subsection.

In Fairfield, AIDS instruction is taught as a component in our comprehensive Health education program K-12. As part of the overall Health program, it can assist students in developing those positive personal skills that foster healthy behaviors and relationships and responsible decision-making. Education is our most powerful weapon against further spread of disease. Young people must be equipped with skills, accurate information, and an opportunity to discuss concerns and questions with knowledgeable adults.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the Health curriculum, please contact the Curriculum Coordinator for Health, Mrs. Lori Mediate. Her office is located at Fairfield Woods Middle School. If you would like to exempt your child from the AIDS Curriculum, please notify me in writing by October 1.

Thank you very much.

Gary A. Rosato, Ed.D.
Principal