



Public Schools of Edison Township

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Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

April 14, 2022

Dear School Community Member,

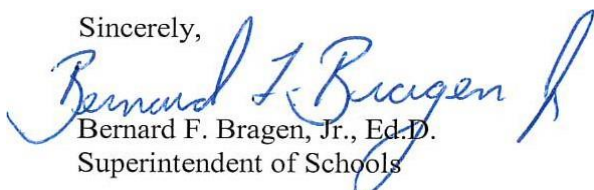
I would like to take a few moments to address a few concerns expressed to me from our school community regarding our Health and Physical Education Curriculum. In 2020, The New Jersey Board of Education revised the Health and Physical Education Student Learning Standards, which provide the overarching tenets for local school districts to develop school curricula, as is the case in all curricular areas. I would encourage anyone who has questions on these standards to read them by using this [link](#). Contained within these standards are expectations for students at all grade levels to demonstrate ways to promote dignity and respect for all people irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic class, differing abilities, immigration status or family configuration. Obviously, varying levels of student age, comprehension and understanding dictates the manner in which the delivery of all education curricula is provided to students as they progress through the school system.

Individual school districts use these state guidelines to develop their own curricula following the outlined parameters. Once developed, the district will then seek local board of education approval for the curriculum. That is the process for all district curriculum adoptions, including Health and Physical Education. The district currently uses programs such as our *Growing Up Program* where sensitive topics such as puberty, body image perception and physical maturation are discussed. The requirements of the revised 2020 Health and Physical Education Student Learning Standards will be presented via a similar instructional modality, where parents will have the option to opt out of any of these types of sensitive instruction that they feel is not appropriate for their child. We are confident we can meet the state requirements while fully respecting the rights of some educational content to remain within the domain of the family, and view our parent community as partners in the education of our students.

In summation, we support any initiative that creates a more welcoming environment for our staff and students, and is one in which everyone is valued for their own uniqueness and individuality. We also respect and understand the needs of all of our families. It is through our collaborative efforts, we are able to provide superlative educational programming where every student is treated with dignity and respect in their efforts to achieve their maximum potential.

If you have any concerns, or questions about your child's education or instructional needs, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or building principal.

Sincerely,



Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Nothing Less Than Excellence