



SUSSEX COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
School Based Youth Services Program - The Student Center



**Reducing the Risk -
Helping Teenagers to Navigate Relationships**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Casey Oldfield MSW, LSW and I am one of the clinicians in the Student Center. I am also the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator at Sussex Tech.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you about an extension of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (APPI), a grant that helps to support Student Center Counseling, called Reducing the Risk, or RTR. This program provides the students an opportunity to enhance refusal skills (i.e., learning how, when, and why to say no), understanding and navigating consent, addressing healthy relationships, and providing education to reduce the risks of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. "Girl Power" is for those identifying as female. "Game Changers" is for those identifying as male.

We are not targeting any particular student or group of students; the interest is to further enhance the education and information of any and all participants. There are particular factors putting students at risk, such as, but not limited to: being in a new relationship, early onset of puberty/physical maturity, being sexually active, social media influence, divorced parents/single parent homes, and the unfortunate absence of one or both parents. The atmosphere of RTR may give students the opportunity to learn about, speak on, and better understand topics that can be uncomfortable or awkward to broach.

Please be assured that this curriculum and our interest in speaking with students is NOT to promote sex, but rather to promote an educated perspective and create dialogue amongst their peer group. As adults, we know from years of experience that, especially in high school, it can be easier to talk to our friends rather than our parents or guardians; by addressing these sensitive topics, the hope is that the information will permeate the ongoing conversations.

I hope you will take this 16-week curriculum into consideration to help our youth to elevate their empowerment when making healthy decisions. I understand your child may or may not be interested, however I am requesting your permission in advance, so should your child find interest, your permission has been granted. I will be checking in with each student to determine their level of interest.

Please see attached consent form and check off the appropriate option for your child.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 973-383-6700, x328, should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Casey Oldfield

Casey Oldfield MSW, LSW