ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers of Students in Health and/or Wellness 1 & 2,

The Rochester Community Schools Board of Education has established an age-appropriate program of instruction in health education for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in accordance with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and state regulations.

The MDE K-12 Health Education Committee created Reproductive Health and Human Sexuality Education guidelines that provide districts with best practices. Public school districts are required to teach about dangerouscommunicable diseases, including, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS. Age-appropriate instruction must be offered at least once a year at every building level including elementary, middle and high school.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be teaching the reproductive health/human sexuality and HIV/AIDS componentsof our health education curriculum. The concepts included in this unit are:

1. Describe the impact of personal health behaviors on the functioning of the reproductive systems andprocesses.
2. Understand the processes of fertilization, fetal development, and birth.
3. Analyze the short-term and long-term consequences of safe, risky, and harmful behaviors.
4. Analyze how sexual abstinence is the safest and healthiest choice to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and protect one's emotional health.
5. Understand that condoms and other contraceptives may reduce the risk of pregnancy and some, but notall, sexually transmitted infections.
6. Demonstrate the ability to utilize various strategies when making decisions and communicating withfamily, peers and others regarding sexual health.
7. Demonstrate refusal, negotiation, and collaboration skills to avoid potentially harmful situations, such asdating violence.
8. Analyze the role of public health policies and laws in the prevention of dating violence and control ofdisease.
9. Express information and opinions about sexual health issues.

Classroom presentations will include approved materials, a discussion of concepts, and a question-and-answersegment. Please feel free to contact your child's health or wellness teacher if you have concerns.

Materials review

In accordance with the State School Aid Act for FY 94, you have the right to review the materials and curriculumcontent to be used in these courses. An outline of the specific course or grade-level content is included with thisletter. Instructional materials, which include teacher guides, student texts (if applicable), and reproductive healthfilms, will be available for your preview consideration. Additionally, a representative from the SHARE organization (Sexual Health and Relationships Education) will be presenting information promoting positive choices and the benefits of remaining abstinent.

We may utilize the following audio-visual materials in our classroom study: “The Latest About HIV/AIDS.” Copiesof the video are available at the Rochester Hills Public Library and may be checked out on a limited basis.

Families are encouraged to review the materials to facilitate discussion at home. You are invited to attend an informative parent preview session. If your child is enrolled in Health, Wellness 1 or Wellness 2 for this school

year, **the preview session is scheduled for September 22, at 6 p.m. in the Rochester High SchoolMedia Center**, located at 1361 Walton Blvd in Rochester Hills.

Please note that this is the only preview session scheduled. If you are unable to attend, copies of the video areavailable at the Rochester Hills Public Library. If you would like to check out videos from the public library, please bring this letter with you to the Youth Services Desk for assistance.

Family options

By law, parents have the right to observe reproductive health instruction in their child’s classroom. They may also excuse their child, without penalty, from participation in the unit containing reproductive health, HIV/AIDS,and/or other serious communicable disease information. Please complete the district opt-out form for reproductive health education if you wish to exempt your child or if you wish to observe classroom instruction.

Attached please find a copy of:

- Approved health education curriculum outline
- Rochester Community Schools reproductive health opt-out form

Thank you for taking this opportunity to understand the health education concepts being taught at school so thatyou may facilitate discussion at home and reinforce your family values.