



Jackson Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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Notification to Parents/Guardians:

The Jackson Public Schools Board of Education has adopted a comprehensive Health Education Program, which includes age-appropriate Sexual Health Education and HIV/AIDS education. An outline of the topics covered at each grade level, along with a link to review the curriculum materials, is included with this letter.

In compliance with Michigan law and our commitment to maintaining open communication with parents and the community, the Board has made the curriculum and instructional materials available for review by parents, guardians, and interested community members. If you would like to review any or all of the instructional materials, please contact:

Kelly Crum, Executive Director of School Climate & Curriculum, at 517-841-2145.

Your child is required to participate in Health Education; however, Michigan law allows parents and guardians to excuse their child from instruction related to sex education, reproductive health, family planning, and HIV/AIDS education. Jackson Public Schools will honor a parent or guardian's decision to opt their child out of these specific lessons for either the current school year or for all remaining K-12 school years while enrolled in Jackson Public Schools, as indicated on the attached opt-out form.

We encourage you to review the curriculum and instructional materials before making your decision. If you choose to have your child excused from any portion of this instruction, please complete and return the attached opt-out form to your child's school so that appropriate alternative educational activities can be provided during the scheduled instructional time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Patterson, Superintendent

Jackson Public Schools
Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Education (K–12) Grade
Course Description and Curriculum Content

Grade	Content
K-3	No Sexuality, Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS curriculum is taught
4-6	<u>Puberty, The Wonder Years Curriculum</u> (Board adoption on 1/13/2003, updated 2017) ● Social and Emotional Changes ● Puberty: Male/Female Reproductive Systems ● How my Body Works/Personal hygiene and Healthy Habits ● Self-Confidence/Respecting Yourself and Others Michigan Model: HIV/AIDS Education Lesson Plans
7-8	Empowering Youth Today (EYT) – REAL Essentials (Grade 7) Seventh-grade students participate in the JCHD REAL Essentials curriculum through the Empowering Youth Today (EYT) program. This abstinence-based (sexual risk avoidance) curriculum focuses on healthy relationships, communication, decision-making, personal boundaries, social media safety, and other social-emotional learning skills. The final lessons include age-appropriate puberty education, covering physical and emotional changes, as well as a basic anatomical overview. Program Details: ● Grade: 7 ● Length: 16 lessons over approximately 7 weeks ● Location: Science class Full Description: Everything changes for kids as they approach their teenage years. These formative milestones can be overwhelming for both parents and their children. The REAL Essentials Starting Point curriculum equips educators and parents with lessons to jump-start conversation and develop foundational relationship skills in this new life stage. All lessons are inclusive, evidence-based, and medically accurate. Activity-based lessons prepare students to better understand and address: ● What makes students special as individuals and understand unique qualities in others ● Skills for establishing healthy friendships and strengthening personal character qualities ● How external influences like social media and advertising affect relationships ● Effective communication techniques, including how to understand and communicate and make healthy decisions ● Setting personal goals for the short-term and long-term future ● Physical and emotional changes that occur with body growth and

- development, including approachable ways to discuss grooming and hygiene

Michigan Model for Health/ HIV/AIDS Education (Grades 7 & 8)

Seventh- and eighth-grade students also receive the [Michigan Model for Health HIV/AIDS Education](#), as required by Michigan law. This instruction provides age-appropriate information on HIV/AIDS prevention and healthy decision-making

9-12

Grades 9–12 – Michigan Model for Health

High school students receive instruction using the Michigan Model for Health: Healthy & Responsible Relationships – HIV, Other STIs, Pregnancy Prevention, and Michigan Law curriculum. Lessons provide medically accurate, age-appropriate information on healthy relationships, HIV and other STIs, pregnancy prevention, and Michigan laws related to sexual health.

[Michigan Model curriculum](#) and lesson topics:

- Building Healthy Relationships/Responding to Peer Pressure
- Facts About HIV/STDs/STIs
- Know the Risks...Including the Law
- Reducing the Risks: Condom Use/Contraception
- How to Prevent Pregnancy/The Cost of Pregnancy and Teen Parenting



Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Education (K–12) Opt-out Form

Revised July 2026

Only fill this portion out if you DO NOT want your student to participate in the Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Education (K–12) instruction.

Please excuse my child from the classes in which the following subject(s) are presented or Discussed:

Choose one of the following:

- ☐ I **DO NOT** want my student to participate in this instruction for **this school year only**
- ☐ I **DO NOT** want my student to participate in this instruction for **all K-12 school years.**

Student Name

School

Current Grade

Parent/Guardian

Date