MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 27, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Mount Olive Township School District's Physical Education/Health curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and has been approved by the Mount Olive Township Board of Education. Families may review the curriculum and access instructions for locating curriculum documents here.

The State of New Jersey affords parents and/or guardians the option to opt out of lessons that conflict with their conscience in the areas of health, family life education, or sex education (see below). It is expected that students who have opted out will participate in physical education classes on those designated lessons. However, this may change based on the volume of students opting out in the particular grade level/building. Students may be required to work in another location because the gymnasium is unable to accommodate the volume of students. Your building principal will communicate if changes need to be made.

> *N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7* ***Parent's Statement of Conflict with Conscience*** *The NJDOE recognizes and respects that some families prefer to have these conversations privately. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school a signed statement that any part of instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course.*

Topics that families sometimes prefer to opt out of include family planning, reproduction, gender, and puberty-related lessons. In an effort to identify these lessons, please review the lesson plans here. If you and your family choose to opt-out of your child out of these lessons, please complete this Google Form. The form must be completed separately for each child by Friday, September 11, 2026. If there are additional topics you would like to discuss, please contact Elizabeth McDermond (elizabeth.mcdermond@motsd.org).

Please understand that while we are sharing our planned lesson plans for the topics listed above, our teachers must be responsive to the needs of the students in each particular classroom. Therefore, there may be times when teachers may deviate from the planned lesson. However, the identified standards will continue to be the focus of the designated lesson.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McDermond

Assistant Superintendent
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