



Dear Parents:

The South Carolina Comprehensive Health Education Act passed by the General Assembly on April 12, 1988, requires schools to provide a comprehensive health educational program to help students understand health principles and responsible sexual behavior. The program includes the following:

- Safety and accident prevention
- Community, consumer, and environmental health
- Prevention and control of diseases and disorders
- Substance use and abuse
- Personal health (including dental, nutritional, mental and emotional health)
- Growth and development
- Reproductive health education, including sexually transmitted diseases and family life education (Grades 6, 7 and 8) and pregnancy prevention in grade 8. Males and females will be separated during instruction concerning reproduction and reproductive systems. (Parents have the right to exempt students only from the reproductive health education and pregnancy prevention components of the curriculum).

The content of instructional materials for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students concerning family life education and sexually transmitted diseases includes the following topics:

- Responsible decision-making skills
- The spread of sexually transmitted diseases
- AIDS and the effects of the AIDS virus; risk behaviors for getting AIDS; protection from AIDS through abstinence; testing and treatment for AIDS; and the impact of AIDS on society.
- Other sexually transmitted diseases and their prevention
- State laws that relate to the sexual conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct

Instructional materials for grade 9-12 include all of the previous topics in the preceding paragraphs, plus the following topics on reproductive health:

- Developing life management skills
- Adolescence as a time of change
- Human reproduction (males and females separately)
- Preventing teenage pregnancy through abstinence outside of marriage (Methods of contraception will be introduced within **the context of future family planning** to males and females separately.)
- Preventing and coping with sexual abuse

The Horry County School District’s position regarding educating adolescents about sexual activity and pregnancy prevention is ABSTINENCE (no sexual activity outside of marriage). Teachers who have been identified to teach the curriculum have received appropriate training in the subject matter.

Parental permission is not required by law. Parents are notified for the purpose of optional exemption only. Exemption is only permissible for reproductive health education; pregnancy prevention and contraceptive education (59-32-50). STD education must begin in the sixth grade and is offered to all grade levels. It is not eligible for exemption.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to exempt my child \_\_\_\_\_ from participating in the Horry County Schools health instruction on reproductive health education; pregnancy prevention and contraceptive education.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date