



Dear Parent/caregiver

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education were revised in 2020 to address the need for students to gain knowledge and skills in caring for themselves, interact effectively with others, and analyze the impact of choices and consequences. These revised standards will be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year. We value the importance of partnering with families as we educate students in the knowledge and skills they need in order to lead a healthy, active life.

All topics are taught in an age, grade and developmental manner. The Fifth Grade Curriculum will address the new standards:

2.1.5.SSH.1: Describe gender-role stereotypes and their potential impact on self and others.

2.1.5.SSH.2: Differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity.

2.1.5.SSH.3: Demonstrate ways to promote dignity and respect for all people

2.1.5.SSH.4: Describe how families can share common values, offer emotional support, and set boundaries and limits.

2.1.5.SSH.5: Explain the importance of communication with family members, caregivers and other trusted adults about a variety of topics.

2.1.5.SSH.6: Describe the characteristics of healthy versus unhealthy relationships among friends and with family members.

2.1.5.SSH.7: Define teasing, harassment and bullying and provide examples of inappropriate behaviors that are harmful to others.

2.1.5.PGD.1- Explain the relationship between sexual intercourse and human reproduction.

2.1.5.PGD.2 - Examine how the body changes during puberty and how these changes influence personal self-care. (ex: hygiene/cleanliness)

2.1.5.PGD.3: Explain the physical, social, and emotional changes that occur during puberty and adolescence and why the onset and progression of puberty can vary.

2.1.5.PGD.4: Explain common human sexual development and the role of hormones

2.1.5.PGD.5: Identify trusted adults, including family members, caregivers, school staff, and health care professionals, whom students can talk to about relationships and ask questions about puberty and adolescent health.

Indicators that are in boldface type are new or expanded from the 2014 standards, and learning activities have been created to integrate this content. For example, to address 2.1.5.SSH.2, an article with definitions related to gender identity and sexual orientation will be used to provide students with

explanations of terms related to these concepts. The school nurse will guide an explanation of each, and the students will participate in a matching terms/definitions activity to demonstrate understanding of each.

The South Brunswick Public Schools acknowledges that parents/caregivers are the primary family life educators for their child/children and we are committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary resources to support you in this role.

Although we strongly encourage families to have their student(s) participate in these essential health topics, we want to acknowledge that Parents/caregivers do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of sexuality/family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, morally, or religiously held beliefs. (*Please see the appropriate NJ Statute below)

If this is the case, please email your student's principal and the classroom teacher that is listed on their schedule in Genesis. Make sure to include the students, name, grade level and school to notify which lesson(s) you are opting your student(s) out of. Students who are excused will be assigned to a separate learning area for the duration of those identified lessons

Section: 18A:35-4.7: Parent's statement of conflict with conscience: Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.

Sincerely,

John Harding
District Supervisor of Health & Physical Education
South Brunswick Schools