

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your partners in education, the Lansing School District Board of Education has approved a unit in the Michigan Model for Health called *Growing Up and Staying Healthy: Understanding HIV and Other STIs, A Module for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*. These lessons were selected after careful scrutiny by parents, teachers, students, clergy, and medical personnel from our community. The unit will be taught beginning the week of **Dec. 16th** in your child's health class.

Your child will have the opportunity to learn the following:

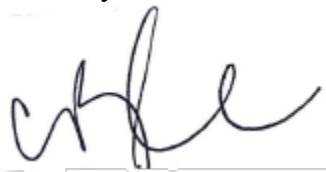
- Skills on having positive relationships with friends and family;
- How to set goals;
- Effective communication with family/trusted adults about sexual decisions and potential consequences;
- Personal limits and how to communicate them to peers;
- Information and prevention tips on Sexually Transmitted Infections;
- Methods for reducing STIs and/or pregnancy (Abstinence, condoms, etc.);
- How to identify, avoid, and/or escape risky sexual situations; and
- Emotional, social, health, financial, and legal consequences of sexual activity.

The unit will give your child information and opportunities to build health skills that will prevent STIs and pregnancy, however, we need your help! You are your child's first and most important teacher. Your child will be encouraged to talk to you and ask questions. Interviews with a parent or another trusted adult will be assigned as homework in order to promote open communication. By working together, schools and families can effectively equip children to develop healthy habits and avoid health risks. Please read attached materials for more information on the unit or the opt-out request form.

You may make an appointment to review the unit materials or observe the class being taught, if you wish. You may have your child excused from any of the lessons without penalty if you decide that is best. Students excused will be given an alternative health assignment of equal grade value. Please contact Cordelia Black, Executive Director for School Culture, at (517) 755-2800 or Elizabeth Perez at (517) 755-4869 if you have any questions or concerns. For more information, please visit the District Website under the *Parents/School Health Resources/Sexuality Education* tab.

We are looking forward to working together to keep our youth healthy.

Sincerely,



Cordelia Black  
Executive Director  
Office of School Culture



Elizabeth Perez  
Co-Chair  
Sex Education Advisory Committee