

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LAW

The Westfield Public Schools will ensure that parents and/or guardians are afforded the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of the human sexual education or human sexuality issues curriculum that is taught within the PreK-12 grade levels. Parents and/or guardians who wish to avail themselves of this flexibility shall do so through written notification to their child's school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of such exemption.

Program instructional materials for this curriculum shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and others for inspection and review in accordance with School Committee policies.

This policy will be distributed to all building principals prior to September 1 each year. Upon receipt of said policy building principals are responsible for notification to parents of their rights.

Parents will be notified of this policy on an annual basis.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, exemption for the student under this policy, or any other issue pertaining to the policy, may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue. The Superintendent or designee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision within fifteen (15) days of the request. A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may send a written request to the School Committee for review of the issue. The School Committee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision within thirty (30) days of the request. A parent/guardian who is still dissatisfied after this process may send a written request to the Commissioner of Education for review of the issue in dispute.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:32A
603 CMR 5.00

Adopted: September 8, 1997

Revised: May 16, 2005

Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Westfield Public school District continues to teach Comprehensive Health Education to all students in our schools from grades K-12. The curriculum is continually reviewed and revised and has been approved by the Westfield School Committee and the administration.

Information regarding Environmental and Community Health, Disease Prevention, Family Life, Emotional and Social Health, Nutrition, Personal Health, Personal Safety and Drug Awareness is given to the students. Portions of this curriculum may deal with human sexual education and human sexuality issues. All of this information is age and grade appropriate.

We strongly recommend that all students participate in the lessons. The curriculum is available for review at each school. If for some reason you do not want your child to participate in these classes, you do have the right to remove him/her from the class. This request must be submitted in writing to the school principal.

Thank you for your continuing interest in this important educational program.