



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

## Human Growth and Development Study Exemption

Read the information provided below carefully. Complete and sign this form if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the Human Growth and Development Curriculum at your school. This form must be returned to your child's school ONLY if you do not want your child to participate in the curriculum.

Student Name (last, first, middle initial)		Teacher	
Grade	School		

The School District of Palm Beach County plans to teach a unit on Human Growth and Development in May. The District will be using the Human Growth and Development Curriculum which was adopted by the School Board of Palm Beach County in 1993, revised in 1996, and updated and expanded this year. Supplemental curricula are used for special student populations.

You are welcome, and encouraged, to review the curriculum and the supporting instructional materials at your child's school. We recommend that you discuss these materials at home. Your child may bring home assignments to do with an adult in the family. These assignments are optional. They are also confidential; students will not be required to report back what you have discussed. The purpose of these assignments is to give you a chance to communicate with one another about these important topics.

Children need specific and realistic information concerning human growth and development, interpersonal relationships, and pregnancy and disease prevention to better prepare them for adulthood. While the places of worship, school, and other community agencies have a role in supporting the effort of parents/guardians, it is recognized that the basic responsibility for human growth and development education belongs in the home. The school can present factual information, but parents/guardians can give these facts their personal, spiritual, and emotional quality.

The District respects your parental rights and your role in presenting information in this sensitive and delicate area. Florida Statute 1003.42, Section 3 says:

*Any students whose parent makes written request to the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health, contraception, or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may not be penalized by reason of that exemption.*

If you choose not to have your child participate in the Human Growth and Development program at school, materials are available to help facilitate conversations at home with your child about these topics. Contact your child's school to get a copy of the Human Growth and Development parent materials. The parent component includes copies of selected materials created for the classroom.

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Signature of Principal

Date

I have read and understand this form concerning the Human Growth and Development Curriculum. I, the parent/legal guardian of the above named child, DO NOT give my consent for my child to participate in the Human Growth and Development curriculum lessons.

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian or  
Student 18 years of age or older

Date

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian or  
Student 18 years of age or older

Date

## **Human Growth & Development Topics Addressed For Secondary Students Only**

### **Grade 6**

- Self-esteem and responsible decision making
- Puberty and personal hygiene
- Male reproductive system and female reproductive system (menstrual cycle and pregnancy)
- Medically accurate information on sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV; disease prevention; and contraceptive methods such as condoms, sponges, birth control pills, and natural family planning

### **Grade 7**

- Self-esteem and responsible decision making
- Puberty and personal hygiene
- Male reproductive system and female reproductive system (menstrual cycle, pregnancy, and pre-natal development)
- Medically accurate information on sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV; disease prevention; and contraceptive methods such as condoms, sponges, birth control pills, and natural family planning (scientific photographs are used)

### **8th & 9th Grades**

- Responsible decision making and refusal skills
- Puberty and the endocrine system
- Male reproductive system and female reproductive system (menstrual cycle, pregnancy, pre-natal development, and stages of childbirth)
- Medically accurate information on sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV (scientific photographs are used); disease prevention; and contraceptive methods such as condoms, sponges, birth control pills, natural family planning, and emergency contraception (scientific photographs are used)

It is important to note that in grades 6-9, it will be stated that both vaginal and anal intercourse as well as oral sex are all regarded as sexual activity and can put individuals at risk for sexually transmitted diseases.

At each level (elementary and secondary), the main concepts are similar; however, the specific lessons present the information in a manner appropriate to the age level of the student. For example, information on HIV is presented at both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade levels. However, the topic is covered in more depth at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.

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