

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

120 MERIAM ROAD CONCORD, MA 01742 PHONE 978.318.1500 FAX 978.318.1537 [www.concordps.org](http://www.concordps.org)

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September 2017

Dear Parents:

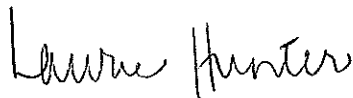
The Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional School District invite you to partner with the schools as we focus on developing and delivering a comprehensive health education program for students. The Concord and Concord-Carlisle systems have had a long-standing commitment to supporting a thoughtful and responsible health education curriculum. Broad in scope, the K-12 curriculum contains strands on nutrition, self-esteem, human sexuality, and substance abuse, among other topics. Through the health education program of study, the schools have made a commitment to promoting "the well-being of the whole person—a healthy mind and a healthy body."

Parents are our children's first teachers. Throughout their lives, parents play a central role in supporting the well-being of their sons and daughters. In developing programs, educators respect and support the central role that parents play in the lives of their children. Just as parents assume a critical role in the health education of young people, the schools also assist children in important learning which focuses on health issues. Our schools reinforce the concept promoted by the American School Health Association that a comprehensive health program integrates numerous strands: educating young people about good nutrition, developing solid critical thinking skills, identifying positive resources of information and services, shaping a positive environment, providing a solid education about human sexuality, and nurturing positive values and attitudes.

At both the elementary and secondary levels, the schools take their responsibility for educating young people in their understanding of age-appropriate human sexuality very seriously while recognizing the importance of parents in this process. The goals of the unit on human sexuality reflect those promoted by the American School Health Association: to provide adequate and accurate information, to clarify attitudes and values, to develop sound decision-making skills and healthy communication, and to provide available resources for further information. The school system directly states that abstinence is recommended for all students. Teachers are expected to make that position known explicitly to students at the middle and high school. Partnering with parents in this learning process, the schools encourage their involvement. To further reinforce and communicate this partnership, the K-12 health education curriculum is designed to include home activities that promote discussion between students and parents.

We encourage you to review the health education materials pertinent to your child's grade level. We look forward to partnering with you in this very important work of assisting in the health education process and increasing our students' learning. If you have questions about the curriculum, please feel free to contact Kristen Herbert, Director of Teaching and Learning, who is located in the Ripley Building and can be reached at 978.341.2490, Extension 8131. If you would like your child not to participate in this curriculum, please email the principal of your child's school. We look forward to partnering with you in this important learning.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laurie Hunter  
Superintendent of Schools