

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents and Community Members,

As I shared in my November Newsletter, [linked here](#), and August Newsletter, [linked here](#), the New Jersey Department of Education has revised the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health and physical education. I also talked about this topic at my October 20 Superintendent's Roundtable Session through a presentation, [linked here](#).

Generally speaking, the New Jersey Department of Education does not mandate a curriculum, but rather standards and performance indicators that must be met. Districts are required to develop a curriculum that meets the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. As a result, the District must update its curriculum documents according to the revised standards.

Through this process, the topic of social and sexual health has garnered much attention. The District has taken multiple and extensive steps to gather feedback, address concerns, and communicate curriculum changes. We recognize the community's request to take a cautious approach to curriculum changes. We value the importance of parent input while focusing on our goal to make minimal changes to the existing curriculum. I am grateful to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee, the Flemington-Raritan Council of Instruction, and the committee of teachers, led by the Assistant Superintendent, who reviewed our existing curriculum, the new standards, and engaged in meaningful and ongoing consultation with the community to recommend curricula for the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District.

It is our belief that sensitive topics related to sexuality are best addressed by parents and guardians in the home. We believe we have met this goal and adhered to parents' requests to allow such topics to be conversations held at home while meeting state mandates. Our collaborative work with our educators, families, and community members in selecting and adopting revised curricula aligns with the health, family life, and sex education standards while honoring parents' ability to opt-out of this instruction.

As part of the District's process to revise the curriculum, we invited all parents and guardians to share their feedback. The survey asked for input on each of the health units of study as follows:

- Body Systems (Grades 3-4)
- Human Development and Reproduction (Grades 2-8)
- Keeping Myself and Others Safe (Grades 3-8)
- Keeping our Bodies Healthy (Grades 3-8)
- Keeping our Minds and Relationships Healthy (Grades 3-8)
- Nutrition (Grades 3-8).

In total, 318 respondents completed the survey.

- 60% of respondents supported or strongly supported the revised curriculum.
- 27% of respondents objected or strongly objected to the revised curriculum.
- 10% were undecided.

The survey also asked how likely parents are to opt their child out of these lessons. Survey participants responded as follows:

- 64% of respondents are likely or very likely to have their child participate in these lessons.
- 28% of respondents are likely or very likely to opt their child out of these lessons.
- 8% were neutral.

As a reminder, parents may exclude their child from family life/sex education lessons. Allow me to share again with all parents and guardians, *“A 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.”*

Furthermore, District level administration reviewed all open-ended comments that were provided for the short-answer questions that were asked. All feedback was received, read, and considered. In addition, excerpts of comments for those who opposed or strongly opposed and those who supported and strongly supported the curriculum were shared with the Board of Education. We continue to analyze and consider comments and suggestions from our community members.

As always, information, including curriculum documents, is available on our website, [linked here](#). Specifically, health curriculum links are also listed below for easy reference:

- [Health Curriculum Website](#)
- [Proposed Health Curriculum](#) (follow directions on our Atlas platform's Welcome page)
- [One-page Overview of the Proposed Health Curriculum](#)

The District will continue to keep our community updated and parents informed on specific grade-level learning objectives and materials selected to support the learning as required by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We will be happy to help.

Thank you to the many parents who completed the survey and offered comments and suggestions and for all of our families who continue to support our District efforts to support every student, every day at every opportunity.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent