

Colts Neck Township Schools

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Director of Curriculum & Instruction
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the summer, staff, administration, and the Board of Education engaged in the annual process of curriculum review and revisions. This process includes updating resources and aligning curriculum to reflect the current [New Jersey Department of Education Student Learning Standards](#).

Colts Neck Township Schools curricula for all grades and subjects is posted to the district's website and can be viewed in [Atlas Rubicon](#). [Here](#) is a short video on how to access and view content on Atlas Rubicon. As required by the New Jersey Department of Education, the district engaged in the process of updating its current Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards curriculum to align with the new 2020 New Jersey Department of Education's Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards for specific grade levels.

The Colts Neck Township School District is committed to providing learning experiences for students that develop habits necessary to live healthy, productive lives that positively impact themselves, their families, schools, and communities. As a school district, we recognize that there may be questions surrounding the New Jersey Department of Education's new 2020 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards. Our approach to revising this curriculum is inclusive of factual information presented in ways that are designed to enhance students' knowledge of their physical development, personal safety, and self-care.

The district's curriculum also conveys information to students about different family structures and individual unique characteristics with an overarching theme of respect for all people. Contrary to misinformation surrounding these new 2020 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards, the district strives to balance state requirements with research-based practices. Our intentions are to present all content in the most age-appropriate manner that adds the greatest educational value to our students' learning experiences.

Please be advised that the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education curriculum guide is written to reflect grade spans as follows: Grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. This is called a *grade level band*. Certain lessons **will only be taught in a particular grade level and not within every grade in the band**. Such will be indicated within the individual units of the curriculum guide, where relevant. Within each unit of the health curriculum guides, specific lesson objectives, suggested resources, and suggested activities are listed.

The 2022-23 Comprehensive Health & Physical Education Curriculum includes changes, specifically for grades K-2, 5, 6, & 8. Grade levels not specified have no changes. Included in this letter is a link to a table that lists the new Health standards, by grade level, content and skills for lessons addressing new standards, and links to new resources that may be used during lessons.

As you look through the linked document please note the following:

- [New Jersey Department of Education Student Learning Standards](#) are created by the New Jersey Department of Education
- The Health Curriculum is how the district will implement these NJSL Standards
- ONLY new standards and curriculum will be identified in the document below. Colts Neck Township Schools curricula for all grades and subjects is posted to the district's website and can be viewed in [Atlas Rubicon](#). [Here](#) is a short video on how to access and view content on Atlas Rubicon.

CLICK THE BELOW LINK TO ACCESS:

**[Colts Neck Township Schools](#)
[2020 Comprehensive Health & Physical Education](#)
[Revised Curriculum & Resources](#)**

As a parent/guardian, you can choose to opt out of specific lessons or portions of the health/family life curriculum directly related to the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education standards. State statute (Section 18A:35-4.7 - "Parent's statement of conflict with conscience" allows a parent/guardian to present to the school principal a signed statement asking their child to be excused from specific portions of the health, family life education, or sex education curriculum if it is in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs. Please know, this is an existing practice of the district that is facilitated by way of written communication that originates from your child(ren)'s Health Teacher.

Prior to the instruction of lessons associated with specific units of study involving health, family life, or sex education, as a parent/guardian, you will be contacted in letter form by your child(ren)'s teacher. At that time, you can decide and communicate your intentions for your child(ren)'s participation in those specific lessons. That process will appear as follows:

- You will receive a letter from your child(ren)'s Health Teacher prior to the start of a specific unit of study that provides you with a choice to opt out of certain lessons.
- You will respond to the letter(s), accordingly. The letter will ask you to determine whether or not you wish to have your child participate in specific lesson(s).
- If you choose to have your child opt out of specific lessons, the district's current practice is to have a school representative contact you to discuss your concerns and confirm your request.
- After your request is confirmed, your child will then be excused without penalty or consequence from the identified content of the course found in conflict and complete an alternative instructional activity that supports achievement in other standards within the NJSL for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

As we implement the new Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Standards, we recognize the importance of maintaining open lines of communication with our parents/guardians so that questions can be addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Should you have any questions related to any of the district's curricula or resources, please contact Dr. Erica Reynolds, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, at reynolds@coltsneckschools.org.

Educationally yours,

Dr. MaryJane Garibay, Superintendent of Schools