STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Eighth Grade Health Exemption Form

The Stonington Middle School Grade Eight Health Curriculum focuses on family life education and sexual abuse and assault awareness. The course follows the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework which is based on the National Health Education Standards and the National Sexuality Education Standards. Sexual health education is an essential component of students' physical, social and emotional development. The overall goal of sexual health education is to provide young people with the knowledge and skills to promote their health and well-being as they mature into sexually healthy adults.

Upon the written request of a parent or guardian received by the school district prior to planned instruction in the areas set forth below, the Stonington Board of Education shall permit curricular exemptions for the instruction in the following areas:

1. Family life education;
2. HIV/AIDS; or
3. Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program.

Definitions:

"Family Life Education Instruction" is defined as instruction pertaining to family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life.

"HIV/AIDS Instruction" is defined as ongoing and systematic instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) offered by the district pursuant to state law.

"Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program" is defined as the state-wide program identified or developed by the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. that includes age appropriate educational materials regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention that may include, but not be limited to, (A) the skills to recognize (i) child sexual abuse and assault, (ii) boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and (iii) ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and (B) stratigies to (i) promote disclosure, (ii) reduce self-blame, and (iii) mobilize bystanders.

Grade 8 Health Standards

Grade 8 Health Unit Outline

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Written Request for Mandatory Exemption:

Parents/Guardians who wish to exercise such exemptions must notify the school district in writing within the first two weeks of school.

Alternative Assignments:

Any student excused from any aspect of the curriculum will be required by the teacher to complete an alternative assignment as determined by the teacher.

Informational Webinar:

A recording of the webinar explaining the Grade 8 Health Standards, the outline of lessons, and the exemption process can be viewed by using the following link: https://youtu.be/jU5Ft2C8cRQ.

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curricular Exemption Request Form

I request that my child be exempted from instruction in the following areas:

Check all that apply:

- ▢ 1. Family Life Education
- ▢ 2. HIV/AIDS
- ▢ 3. Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program

I recognize that my child will be required to complete alternative assignments in lieu of the curricular instruction planned in the area of exemption. This alternative assignment will occur during the scheduled health class.

This form must be completed and returned to Deanna Brucoli (SMS Principal) or Dan Cawley (8th Grade Health Teacher) by September 22, 2023. A Stonington Middle School employee will then be in contact with you to discuss the exemption.

Name of Student (Please Print):

Parent's/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

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