

School Year 2019-2020

Dear Fifth Grade Parent:

The Rockdale County Public Schools strive to provide our students with experiences that will prepare them to function effectively as students and citizens. We perceive this as an obligation to the students, their parents, and the community.

Growth and development are important and essential considerations in providing meaningful experiences for our young people. All pertinent concepts are presented in a logical, sequential manner beginning in kindergarten. As of August 2018, Senate Bill 401, requires students enrolled in grades K-9 to annually receive age appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education. Kindergartners begin to associate that creatures of the same kind produce others of the same kind, middle school students are introduced to the correct anatomical terminology while identifying the physical and emotional differences between males and females, and high school students have experiences that will prepare them for parenting.

What follows is a summary of the objectives to be addressed in the fifth grade growth and development unit of the Health Curriculum. The *Always Changing* instructional materials may be reviewed at <https://www.pgschoolprograms.com/Parents>. Additional information regarding Senate Bill 401 is also available at: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/401>.

Parent permission is required for your student to take part in this important unit.

1. Students will identify differences in the physical characteristics found among their peers.
2. Students will identify the role of the endocrine glands in puberty.
3. Students will describe the physiological and psychological changes that occur during puberty.
4. Students will describe the need for special hygiene measures during puberty.

Additionally, HIV/AIDS instruction is offered in alignment to the Center for Disease Control's Health Curriculum Analysis Tool. The purpose is for students to identify that HIV/AIDS cannot be contracted from casual contact with an infected person. This brief overview of HIV/AIDS is delivered during one lesson using Discovery Education's *HIV and AIDS: Staying Safe* documentary. **Additional parent permission is required for your student to participate in this instruction.**

The instructional materials used in the unit may be reviewed using the link above or by contacting your child's teacher or counselor to make an appointment. For details about our school system's human sexuality program, contact Dr. Denise Richardson in Curriculum Services at 770-860-4271.

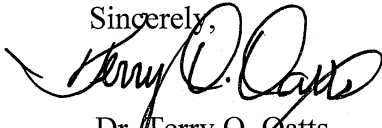
The elementary Georgia Performance Standards may also be viewed online at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/HealthEd.aspx>. Please be assured that the information will be presented in a prudent and tasteful fashion.

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I encourage your support in meeting the needs of all our students. For your own child, I ask that you provide your consent for his/her participation in the growth and development unit. Please indicate your preference for your child's participation in this class on the form below, sign the form, and return it to your child's teacher. If you choose not to consent to participate, please contact your child's teacher to develop an alternate plan of instruction that he/she can receive at school or at home.

Thank you for your interest in your child's education and your support of the Rockdale County Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Terry O. Oatts
Superintendent

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Elementary School Permission Form

____ I do give consent for my child to participate in the growth and development unit.

____ I do give consent for my child to participate in the HIV/AIDS education instruction.

____ I do NOT give consent for my child to participate in the growth and development unit.

____ I do NOT give consent for my child to participate in the HIV/AIDS education instruction.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

(Student's Name)