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**The Board of Education of Worcester County**  
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Worcester County School System offers a health course that incorporates a Family Life and Human Development unit as part of the ninth grade State-required health education program. This course was developed by a county advisory committee consisting of parents, teachers, students, and nurses. The topics covered in the Family Life and Human Development unit are the following:

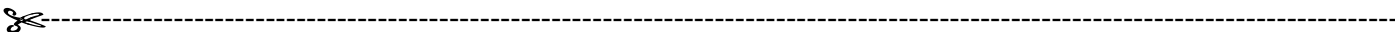
- Reproductive System
- Abstinence/Contraception
- Communicable Diseases
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)/AIDS

Your child's teacher has been selected and trained for this particular program. At the beginning of the course, a detailed outline will be given to each student so parents may follow the daily discussion and topics.

All students will participate in this Family Life and Human Development unit unless the teacher receives written communication from the parent/guardian requesting that their child should be exempt from this portion of the course. Students excused will be provided an alternative program and specific duties of exemption.

Sincerely,

Louis H. Taylor  
Superintendent of Schools



**RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

I request that my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, **not attend the grade 9** Family Life and Human Development unit portion of health education.

Date

Signature



**Brief Description of Unit**

The ninth grade Family Life and Human Development unit is one component of the required high school health class. Areas of growth and development of a human being are reviewed, including the life cycle and reproductive systems. The focus of the unit is to present students with information regarding the symptoms, diagnosis and treatments for STDs/HIV/AIDS. The issue of abstinence is taught as the only effective method of prevention of STDs and pregnancy. Community health services are identified as a resource for prevention and treatment.

**Content Outline**

**State Standard:** Family Life and Human Sexuality

**State Outcome:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use human development knowledge, social skills, and health enhancing strategies to promote positive relationships and healthy growth and development throughout the life cycle.

**State Standard:** Disease Prevention and Control

**State Outcome:** Students will demonstrate the ability to apply prevention and treatment knowledge, skills, and strategies to reduce susceptibility and manage disease.

**A. Lesson Topic: Abstinence**

- STDs/HIV/AIDS symptoms, diagnoses and treatments.
- Abstinence as the only effective key to protection. Analyze the ineffectiveness of contraceptive devices.
- Assertive communication skills and decision making.
- Strategies to promote positive relationships and healthy growth and development throughout the life cycle.
- Student responsibility in enhancing one's own health.

**B. Lesson Topic: STDs/HIV/AIDS**

- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Explore how HIV destroys the immune system.
- Identify risky behaviors
- Analyze the relationship between unsafe behaviors, refusal skills and the risk of HIV/AIDS.