



August 25, 2022

Dear Ocean City Families,

In recent weeks, New Jersey's 2020 Health and Physical Education Standards (NJSLs) have received increased attention by not only our community, but communities across the state. Ocean City School District, as well as every public school district in New Jersey, is required to adopt and teach a Health and Physical Education curriculum aligned to the state standards, however the curriculum and instructional resources that are used to meet these standards is a local decision made by each district- based on its own local curriculum development and review process.

We began the process of revising our Health and Physical Education curriculum with a team of teachers and administrators with a goal of compliance at the minimum requirement and the understanding that parents should be a collaborative part of the teaching process. Our team is preparing lessons to meet these new learning goals in an age-appropriate manner.

Ocean City School District has consistently embodied in our curriculum the important role of parents in supporting their child's learning and health. New Jersey's standards are currently posted on the district website and we will post our Health and Physical Education curriculum and the supporting documents in September. Additionally, parent meetings will be held at the primary, intermediate and high school regarding our health program in September.

We respect and value parents' personal choices concerning their child's health education, and want to remind parents of District *Policy 5250: Health and Physical Education*, which states, "any student whose parent presents to the principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his/her 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."

If you would like your child excused from a specific part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, please submit, in writing, a signed statement to your principal, and include the specific NJ Student Learning Standard that you would like your child excused from. The NJ Student Learning Standards can be found on our website.

Your statement will be shared with the appropriate teacher and your child will be placed in a supervised alternative learning location during the excused lesson and given an alternative assignment to work on during this time.

Please feel free to contact me or your child's principal with questions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Matthew B. Friedman
Superintendent of Schools