



Dear Parents & Guardians:

Gunter ISD regards parents/guardians of children as the first and primary teachers. This is especially the case in regard to spiritual, moral and sex education. Sexuality education is the parent/guardian's right and responsibility; by law, our role as educators through the teaching of courses such as health and other science disciplines is to provide instruction specific to human sexuality.

The GISD content of human sexuality instruction teaches about the human anatomy and the reproductive system, including information on sexually transmitted diseases, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The curriculum used is in compliance with those state guidelines by ensuring that instruction:

- Presents abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devotes more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasizes that abstinence from sexual activity, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100% effective in preventing pregnancy, STDs, infection with HIV/AIDS.

In response to Senate Bill 283, GISD is providing written notice of our intent to provide human sexuality instruction to students.

GISD wishes to inform you that your student will be exposed to a "Welcome to Puberty" presentation at 5th grade. Girls and boys attend separate presentations. The district nurse speaks to the girls. The school counselor speaks to the boys. The film *Always Changing* by Proctor and Gamble is shown. Discussion follows concerning the changes individuals will face as they enter puberty. Due to the sensitive nature of this presentation, parents will be given prior notice so that the curriculum may be previewed if a parent wishes. A permission slip will be sent home with each child. Parents have the right to opt out of having their student participate in the presentation. More information can be obtained about the presentation by contacting the school nurse or the middle school counselor.

The *180 Degrees Sexual Education Program* is utilized at 7-12th grade. The *180 Degrees Program* is an abstinence education program that presents the reality of the consequences of premarital sex and the benefits of healthy relationships. The presentation includes: statistics, how to set physical boundaries, and how to develop healthy relationships. The program is interactive with questions and discussion interspersed throughout. Due to the sensitive nature of the program, parents have the opportunity to attend a parent preview/information night prior to the student presentation. Information will be sent home informing parents of the presentation and a permission slip for parents to sign allowing or requesting their child not participate.

Title 2, Chapter 28, Section 28.004 of the TEC requires school districts to have a School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). SHAC is a school board approved advisory group of individuals who represent different segments of the community. By law, a majority of the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district who are not employed by the district. The Gunter ISD SHAC is made up of parents, community members, and district staff working together to improve the health of all students and families through coordinated school health programs. One of the responsibilities of the SHAC is to review, approve, and make recommendations to the school board regarding the instruction of human sexuality. If you have any questions regarding SHAC, they should be addressed to Stacy Hunsaker at 903-433-5315 or Dara Arrington at 903-433-1542.

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials regarding Human Sexuality used by the district. Parents wishing to do so may contact Dara Arrington at 903-433-1542 ext. 302.

