



# CLIFFSIDE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
Cliffside Park, New Jersey 07010

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**Michael J. Romagnino**  
Superintendent of Schools

**The Municipal Complex**  
525 Palisade Avenue

September 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to announce the revision of the 2020 New Jersey State Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education provided by the NJ Department of Education. We value the importance of partnering with families as we educate students in the knowledge and skills, they need in order to lead a healthy, active life. The NJDOE requires all public school districts to teach the [updated standards](#). The updated curriculum guide is available on the district website for your review.

The Cliffside Park School District invested in a new health resource in Grades K-8 called The Great Body Shop. [The Great Body Shop](#) will assist our teachers towards meeting the updated standards and approaching sensitive topics in a uniform manner. Many topics are new and may look different for you and your family. In past years, boys and girls were separated and taught topics pertaining to their gender only, but now all students will be taught the same information, regardless of gender. Research shows that by educating students sooner on some of these topics, we can help reduce the risk of risky behaviors later.

We invite you to examine and discuss this information with your child prior to the instructional units at school. Your child's teacher will send out a letter prior to the unit of study to inform you of the content. If you are concerned about the content and prefer to have your child excused, you may do so. Specifically, the content related to family life education. The curriculum guide is available on the district website for your review. You can also view this document [GBS-Topics by Grade Level](#) which will provide you with the topics that will be covered at each grade level.

The Cliffside Park School District acknowledges that parents/guardians are the primary family life educators for their children and we are committed to partnering with you to provide supplementary resources to support you in this role, such as: [Resources for Parents](#) [Parents - amaze / USA](#)

Although we strongly encourage families to have their students participate in these essential health topics, we want to acknowledge that Parents/Guardians do have the option of excluding their child from any portion of sexuality/family life education instruction if it is in conflict with their conscience, morally, or religiously held beliefs. (\*Please see the appropriate NJ Statute below) If this is the case, please fill out the exclusion form below, tear it off, and send it to your child's teacher/Principal. Students who are excused will be assigned to a separate classroom for the duration of those identified lessons.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns you can contact the building Principal, Health Supervisor or Director of Curriculum.

Respectfully,

*Mr. Michael Romagnino*

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Cliffside Park

**Cliffside Park Public Schools**  
**Family Health Opt Out Form**

**Section: 18A:35-4.7: Parent's statement of conflict with conscience:** *Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his 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 therefrom.*

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I wish for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to be excused from the following topics of the family life/sexuality education unit due to moral, ethical and/or religious beliefs:

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Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Classroom/Health Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade/School \_\_\_\_\_