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Sex Education Instruction - Option to Decline

DEAR PARENTS:

The GA DOE regulations require that each local board of education develop and implement a comprehensive health and physical education program that includes sex education and AIDS prevention education. Regulations allow parents/guardians to exercise the option of excluding their child from sex education and AIDS prevention instructional programs.

A Sex Education Review Committee was recently convened by the Houston County Board of Education to review the *Choosing The Best (CTB)* materials in consideration for use. The committee was composed primarily of non-teaching parents of public school children and educators, health professionals and other community representatives. The committee also included male and female 11th-12th grade students. The committee approved of the implementation of the *CTB* curriculum with middle and high school students.

The *Choosing The Best* curriculum is an abstinence-centered, sexual risk avoidance and relationship education program. It is research-based, medically accurate, and universally applicable and inclusive. It supports the CDC stance that the **most reliable way to avoid the risk** of STD is to be abstinent until you enter into a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner. This type of relationship is most commonly referred to as marriage and may be referenced as such.

The program focuses on the reasons and methods to avoid at-risk behaviors. It includes lessons on making decisions, understanding healthy relationships, identifying risks, understanding consequences, knowing facts and statistics regarding STD's, and dealing with peer pressure.

The Houston County School District has chosen to participate in a Federal Title V grant opportunity that maximizes the resources available with the *Choosing The Best* curriculum. Participation in this grant requires students to complete a Pre- and a Post- Survey that does include questions regarding previous decisions as well as future intent in regards to at-risk sexual behaviors. These results do not include student names but are used to determine if the implementation of the program is linked to improved student (collective) choices (and hopefully outcomes). Data for the results of the surveys are aggregated and are not specific to any individual participant.

Parents may preview all materials, including the survey. See a list of standards on the following page. For more information on *Choosing The Best* go to <http://www.choosingthebest.com/> or contact Blanche Lamb, Coordinator for Special Programs, at blanche.lamb@hcbe.net or at 478-988-6200 ext. 10193.

No action is required at this time if you permit your child to participate. Please look for your child to bring home his/her student workbook at the completion of the unit.

ONLY complete this form if your child will **NOT** be allowed to participate. Return to your child's Health/PE teacher.

☐ **No** (My child may **not** participate in the *Choosing The Best* sex education instructional unit of study.)

STUDENT'S NAME (print)

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE