

Parent's Name:
Child(ren) Name(s):
Grade Level:
Child's School:
Date:

Dear Principal, Teachers, and Parents' Council Coordinator,

Re: Student strike against 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum

We wish to thank the school for its commitment to our child and his/her education. We believe in our role as educators. We believe that the new Health and Physical Education curriculum contains information that we consider age-inappropriate and therefore could not protect our children's well being, on the contrary, it puts children across Ontario into dangers physically and mentally.

We as parents fully recognize the need for school curricula to be regularly updated and therefore we are not opposed to the introduction of a new HPE Curriculum. We acknowledge the merits of the new Curriculum in many of its content areas. That said, we believe that the Human Development and Sexual Health content area has a number of deficiencies and accordingly must be reconsidered.

One of our primary concerns is that the Curriculum **omits and misrepresents proven medical and scientific facts** that are absolutely fundamental if we are truly committed to the protection of our children. We highlight several areas of concern as follows:

- The Curriculum draws an equivalency between all sexual activities with respect to the risk of STIs. However, it is well known in the medical field that anal intercourse for example, carries with it a significantly increased risk of HIV infection – conservatively estimated to be up to 30 times higher. We believe therefore that there must be more complete and accurate science based information provided to students on issues related to STIs. They are serious diseases and therefore must be addressed on a sound medical basis.
- We believe that presenting subjective opinions as established scientific facts must be avoided in the Curriculum. An example of this is the belief that explicit sexuality and body parts should be taught to students as young as 6 years old. Moreover, there is no recognition in the Curriculum that teaching detailed sexual information at such an early age will inevitably lead to harmful impacts in many of our children; nor is there any discussion on how these impacts can be addressed by teachers and parents when they do occur.
- With the proliferation today of sexual imagery and messaging in the media, we believe that there needs to be a thorough discussion on the exploitation of students, and in particular young women, by the pornography "industry" and most importantly, how students can protect themselves from the harmful and addictive impacts of pornography viewing.

As a result, we decided to join the thousands of other dissatisfied parents and be part of the strike against the new curriculum. We would like to inform you that our child will not be attending school on September 9th thru 11th, 2015. We expect the schools to support parents' choice and communicate our concerns to the school board and the Ministry of Education.

Thank you for your respect and understanding.

Sincerely,

Parent's Signature: