



Frequently Asked Questions about JTPS Health Curriculum

This Frequently Asked Question document has been created to help parents navigate information and resources regarding the JTPS curriculum, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum that were adopted by the Jefferson Township Board of Education in July, 2022. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's health and/or physical education teacher if you need additional assistance.

Where can I find the district's Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum?

All the district's curriculum is available for review in the [Curriculum Directory](#) page on the district website. There you can view the curriculum documents that pertain to your child's grade level and content area.

What is the difference between Jefferson's curriculum and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards?

The [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#) (NJSLS) are learning goals that have been approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education that span nine content areas designed to prepare children for success at the completion of their K-12 career. The standards depict what students are expected to learn by the end of defined grade bands over the course of their educational career. The NJSLS are guidelines as to the knowledge and skills that are to be taught; the JTPS curriculum are documents that are locally created by district teachers and content-area supervisors that cater to the needs of our students and our community. We as a district decide how to provide this instruction and what resources will be used to deliver that instruction.

What if I choose to teach my child about certain topics at home and not have them learn about that topic in school?

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any child whose parent/guardian presents to the school a signed statement that any part of instruction in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with their conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs, shall be excused from that portion of the course. As part of the Family Life Curriculum, students will receive instruction on growth and development, germs, viruses, and communicable diseases (AIDS), with the content directed to the appropriate grade level. If you wish to exclude your child from any part of our health education program, please complete the [Health Education Exclusion Form](#) and send it to your child's principal.

The Health standards have different types of intercourse listed, how will the curriculum be differentiated for students?

The standards will be taught through the JTPS curriculum at age-appropriate grade levels. Teachers will ensure that student learning needs are met based on student ability and readiness. Parents who are concerned about their child's exposure to certain topics should have a conversation with their child's teacher prior to the lesson.

How will I know when certain topics will be taught?

Health teachers will be communicating with parents in advance of when health topics will be covered in class. This will allow parents time to speak with their child prior to the lesson and, if they so choose, afford parents time to submit the Health Education Exclusion Form to their child's principal.

If a parent wants to have their child excluded, what is the deadline?

Parents who wish to have their child excluded from instruction on a certain topic must submit the Health Education Exclusion Form at least three days prior to the lesson so alternate arrangements can be made to supervise their child.

*****Additional Questions that were asked at the Community Curriculum Forum on August 4, 2022.**

Is the new math curriculum taking the place of the Common Core Math?

During the 2022-2023 school year, JTPS will be implementing the Math Workshop Model for students in grades K-5 which combines direct instruction with hands-on and student-centered learning. Lessons begin with a teacher-led mini-lesson and then students engage in small group learning. In grades K-8, JTPS will also be implementing [Reveal Math](#) as the core math resource.

Is the math curriculum more hands-on and less online? Will it be more pen and paper?

The Math Workshop Model, as discussed above, provides a balance of hands-on learning opportunities along with direct instruction and student-centered learning. The Reveal Math program provides teachers and students with a wide array of consumable textbooks and workbooks, manipulatives, and online resources for learning and expanding knowledge.

With the addition of media arts standards in the Visual and Performing Arts NJSLs, will the district be adding additional classes for the students to choose from?

One change to the [Visual and Performing Arts NJSLs](#) is the addition of media arts as a



Jefferson Township Public Schools



unique medium of artistic expression that can amplify and integrate the four traditional art forms. JTPS is committed to offering students a wide array of classes and opportunities for students to learn; however, the ongoing reductions in state aid as a result of the cuts mandated by [Senate Bill S-2](#), the district is limited in its ability to hire additional teachers and provide new programs.

Teachers create their own curriculum for their classes. How can parents be sure that what was discussed at the Curriculum Forum is going to actually be taught?

Teachers create their own lesson plans that map out how they will teach the district curriculum and learning standards to their students. JTPS will ensure that the curriculum and the method of delivery for Health topics will take place in accordance with district guidelines through curriculum council meetings, review of lesson plans, and observations of teachers.

September 2022