



# Hopatcong Borough Schools

Mr. Arthur DiBenedetto  
*Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools*

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

November 1, 2022

An Open Letter to Parents of Hopatcong Borough School Children:

Whereas the school district respects the opinions of parents, and whereas there has been controversy over the 2020 Health and Physical Education Standards that must be implemented this year, please note the following with regard to Health instruction.

Parents may choose to have their child sit out of any Health class that contains instruction on sexuality, or for that matter any aspect of Health instruction. It is recommended, but not required that if parents are uncomfortable with any **potential** Health topic, they should contact Interim Asst. Supt. Art DiBenedetto to ascertain if that topic is part of the Health curriculum at your child's grade level. Please remember that the standards put forth by the state do not necessarily become part of the local curriculum.

If the parent would still prefer opting the child from Health, a letter to the principal of their child's school is required by law. Your wishes will be carried out after this letter is received by the principal of your child's school.

Please see the law that is summarized in the next paragraph and follow those directions.

The NJDOE recognizes and respects that some families prefer to have these conversations privately. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.7, any child whose parent or 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 his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course. Parents and guardians seeking to exercise this option should contact their local school principal directly.

You can contact Mr. DiBenedetto at [adibenedetto@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:adibenedetto@hopatcongschools.org)

Sincerely,

Arthur DiBenedetto  
Interim Assistant Superintendent