Dear Washington Elementary Parents or Guardians:

Tacoma Public School adopted the FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) curriculum for all students grades 5 – 12 in June, 2018 in alignment with Policy 2125, Policy 2126, and Regulation 2126. Your student will participate in lessons from the FLASH curriculum in June.

This updated curriculum (FLASH) was selected by a team of TPS Educators, Family Members, Community Members, and Health Professionals. Below is information about the FLASH Curriculum. You can preview the curriculum on the dates below.

After previewing the curriculum, if you do not want your student to participate in the classes you can fill out a written waiver and submit it to our principal Edward Schau through the main office. Waivers are available at each preview session, listed below. Alternative learning experiences, unrelated to Sexual Health, will be provided to students who have signed waivers from their Parent/Guardian.

**Family FLASH Curriculum Preview Opportunities**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 3/20/2019</td>
<td>5:30 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Library, Jason Lee Middle School</td>
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<td><em>Preview available for Grades 5 – 12.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 04/11/2019</td>
<td>7:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Cafeteria, Washington Elementary</td>
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<td>Information will be shared at the PTA meeting with curriculum available for previewing.</td>
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| Ongoing Basis         | Come into our school’s main office and ask to view lessons, as your schedule allows. There will be a copy of the curriculum available and a sign in sheet for those that preview. |

**About the FLASH Curriculum**

FLASH is a medically accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexual health curriculum, as identified by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Goals of the 5th grade curriculum are for students to be able to describe the physical, emotional and social changes of puberty, distinguish puberty facts from myths, identify medical terms and function of the reproductive systems, and to increase family communication about sexual health-related topics such as dating, sex and abstinence.
FLASH builds skills to support young people in remaining abstinent, as well as teaching about other methods of disease and pregnancy prevention. It promotes respectful communication, and builds skills for healthy relationships. FLASH also contains family homework assignments that are recommended for students to talk with a family member about the topics covered in class via a prescribed set of questions.

FLASH provides a protocol for teachers when answering students’ questions about values that includes referring students back to families to learn their specific values. As a result, students may come home with questions about the values and expectations you have for them regarding these topics. We hope this will provide a meaningful opportunity for you to talk about these important topics together.

Students will be presented with information concerning human growth and development. Surveys show that young people would like to talk more about these issues with a parent or other trusted adult, and research shows that having these conversations now plays a very important role in helping students prevent pregnancy, STDs and HIV when they are older. Please consider talking with your student.

Washington State Law also now requires that students (grades 5 – 12) receive information annually concerning HIV/AIDS (TPS Policy & Regulation 2126). Students will learn about how the disease attacks the body’s immune system and what can be done to prevent the spread of it. Students will be given the opportunity to ask questions during the presentation.

Sincerely,

Edward Schau  
Washington Elementary  
253-571-5700
Request to Excuse Student
Sexual Health Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention

I have attended session to preview the Sexual Health Education Curriculum (FLASH) and HIV/AIDS prevention lessons for my student (or legal ward).

__________________________________________________________________________

Name of Student

__________________________________________________________________________

Name of School

I do not wish my student (or legal ward) to receive instruction Sexual Health Education Curriculum (FLASH) and HIV/AIDS prevention and request my student (or legal ward) is excused from participation in the lesson(s).

__________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

__________________________________________________________________________

Date

Reference: Policy 2125, Policy 2126, Regulation 2126