

# HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Dear Parents,

Your child will have the opportunity within the next few months to participate in a STD/Pregnancy Prevention Course offered by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. This letter will explain what is involved in the program and why it is an important topic to be discussed.

The media has been full of information concerning teenage pregnancies and the threats of sexually –transmitted diseases. According to school statistics, Harrison County has made significant progress in reducing the incidences of teenage pregnancies. Despite these statistics, members of the medical profession continue to see very young teens becoming pregnant in Harrison County. The Center for Disease Control recently released a report of a 17% increase in teenage births in West Virginia from 2009. This is the only state that has shown an increase in this population.

The curriculum in this program will promote the institute of the family, enhance character development, and teach abstinence as a standard. The subject matter includes information on reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy. Although this is an abstinence-based program, contraceptives will be discussed, but NOT distributed.

Carrie Zickefoose, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Specialist for West Virginia State Department , will be presenting this program to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students of Harrison County. She is employed by the West Virginia State Department of Health and Human Resources. Information about the program may be found online at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/appi/>.

IF YOU **DO NOT** WANT YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND THIS CLASS SIGN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO SCHOOL.

A general parent meeting will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ at the Old Gore Middle School at 6:00PM. Please feel free to join us to discuss this program in more detail.

Sincerely,

Harrison County School Nurses

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**NO-** I do not wish for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to attend this presentation on sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy offered by West Virginia Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_