

DRAW THE LINE/RESPECT THE LINE PROGRAM

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Roanoke County Public Schools regularly updates materials used to teach the Virginia SOLs across all content areas. This year we are updating our Family Life materials. The material content remains abstinence based and focuses on teaching student's refusal skills when faced with pressure to do something they are uncomfortable with. The new materials are provided as a result of grant funding secured by Family Service of the Roanoke Valley and the Appalachian Replication Project at the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services at James Madison University. They are partnering to support health and PE educators at your child's school to provide the *Draw the Line/Respect the Line* Program to sixth, seventh, and ninth grade students.

The *Draw the Line/Respect the Line* program is an evidence-based, three-year sex education program that focuses on developing interpersonal and intrapersonal skills so that teens can set healthy limits. The 6th grade curriculum contains **no** sexual health information at all. The primary message of the program overall is that postponing sexual activity during adolescence is the healthiest choice. Program sessions encourage participants to discuss social and peer pressures to have sex, how to set limits and respect the limits of others, enhance refusal skills, and enhance skills to avoid risky situations.

The program curriculum will be offered to students during their health class and program participation is voluntary. If parents choose to opt their student out of the *Draw the Line* programming, alternate health lessons will be provided to them and they will work outside of the classroom during that time. Program participation will take between 2.5 and 3.5 hours, across 5 – 7 units. This curriculum is available for review in your school's office or on the RCPS website at <https://www.rcps.us/Page/447>.

Program Evaluation for Draw the Line/Respect the Line

Our 6th and 7th grade students are participating in evaluation of this program so that we can learn how effective it is for the youth in our community. We desire to invest our resources in programs that are shown to be effective. With your permission, your child will be asked to complete a pre-test at the beginning and a post-test at the end of the program to measure any knowledge gains. The questions are designed to be an assessment of student's knowledge and understanding of the content taught; this is not a survey asking students about their own personal behaviors. This process will take about 15 minutes to complete each time and covers such things as setting limits, peer pressure, and making decisions.

Pre/Post-Test Procedures

Answering questions should take about 15 minutes for each test. Most of the questions are multiple choice. All of the answers provided are confidential. We will not ask anything that will allow anyone to know which answers are your child's.

- The assessments are voluntary. You do not have to agree to allow your child to take the test in order for them to participate in the curriculum.
- Your child will also be asked if they are willing to voluntarily participate.
- If your child does participate, they may decide to skip any questions that they do not want to answer. They may stop at any time.

Potential Benefits of Participating in the Pre/Post-Test

- The teachers, staff, and developers of the materials will learn about the effectiveness of the Draw the Line/Respect the Line program.

Potential Risks of the Participating in the Pre/Post-Test

- If your child feels like the test is taking too long, is making them upset, gets tired, or if for any other reason they want to stop, they may do so at any time.

Confidentiality

All of the answers that are given as part of the assessment will be kept private. They will only be available to people involved with the development of the materials, except when required by law. There are two exceptions: 1) if any child reveals that they are a danger to themselves or others; 2) if they reveal abuse committed against a child. In either of these cases, we must report it to the appropriate authorities. All forms and tests will be stored for five years and then deleted.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Burcham, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education at (540) 562-3900 ex. 10255.

If you consent for your student to participate in the Draw the Line/Respect the Line program, no further action is required. Students will automatically participate in this program through their Health/PE class.

If you **DO NOT want your child to participate in the Draw the Line/Respect the Line curriculum instruction and/or the pre-/post-test, please follow this link to opt out of instruction and/or pre-/post-test participation:**
<https://forms.gle/QVFraPLkHF5Aabth6>.