



Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

HIV / AIDS

C U R R I C U L U M

2012 Edition

A Supplement to a
Comprehensive
Health Curriculum



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9/12

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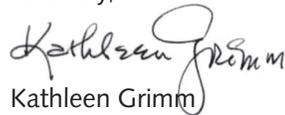
Dear New York City educators and families:

HIV/AIDS continues to be an enormous problem for New York City. More than 110,000 New Yorkers are infected with HIV. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that half of all new infections are acquired before age 25. We know from the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>) that almost 40 percent of our high school students engage in behaviors that put them at risk for acquiring HIV. We also know that researchers have made great strides in understanding the disease, and in developing new ways to prevent and treat it.

The NYC Department of Education's *HIV/AIDS Curriculum* provides our students with the age-appropriate, comprehensive, and up-to-date education they need to stay healthy and safe. Lessons cover the nature of the disease, methods of transmission and methods of prevention, while teaching students how to make clear and thoughtful decisions about their health. Abstinence is emphasized as the only 100 percent effective means of avoiding sexually transmitted infections. In accordance with the New York State Education Department regulations, parents or legal guardians have the right to withdraw their children from specific lessons that deal with methods of prevention in order to provide this information at home. More information about opting out of certain lessons is provided on page xxv. The 2012 edition of the *HIV/AIDS Curriculum* incorporates the latest medical research and HIV testing laws to help ensure that students have the most current information about this important topic.

Schools do not replace what is learned at home when it comes to values. As public educators, we can and must reinforce the valuable lessons learned at home with medically accurate and age-appropriate information. Together, we are all called upon not only to educate, but to model behaviors for staying healthy and safe in all areas of our lives. I encourage you to review what is covered in this curriculum and use it as we work together to keep New York City students safe and healthy.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Grimm

Acknowledgments

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