Date: August 31, 2016

TO: **Parents of students in Beaver Lake Middle, Issaquah Middle, Maywood Middle, Pacific Cascade Middle, Pine Lake Middle, Issaquah High, Liberty High, Skyline High and Gibson EK High School.**

FROM: Kris Coleman, Instructional Technology Specialist
SUBJECT: FLASH and HIV/AIDS curriculum instruction in your child's classroom

FLASH and HIV/AIDS Curriculum Information Sessions for Secondary Schools

Your child's teacher will be teaching the district adopted FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) and HIV/AIDS curriculum during this school year. To allow you an opportunity to examine the instructional materials and view the videos that may be used, there will be two public viewings of the materials in Boardroom A of the Issaquah School District Administration Center.

Thursday, September 8, 2016 **from 6.00 –7.30 p.m.**

Saturday, September 10, 2016 **from 9.00-10.30 a.m.**

At the appointed time there will be an informal presentation with viewing of video(s). Curriculum staff will be available to answer your questions.

FLASH Instruction:
Under the Federal Hatch Amendment of 1974, all sexual education instructional materials must be available for parent inspection. Parents have the right to exempt their child from sexual education instruction at any time. The public viewings provide a centralized opportunity to do so. *While it is not required for you to attend the parent preview to exempt your child from sexual education, it is necessary to submit your request in writing to your school principal. This must be done each year.*

HIV/AIDS Instruction: ***Please note – the process of exempting your child from HIV/AIDS education is treated separately from exempting your child out of sexual education.***
In recognition of the significant threat that the HIV/AIDS virus presents to the health of the people of our nation, the Washington state legislature passed the Omnibus AIDS Bill in 1988. This law directs local school districts to provide yearly instruction to students in grades 5-12 about the pathology and prevention of the HIV/AIDS virus. *The law requires that parents/guardians must preview the HIV/AIDS curriculum which is found within the FLASH curriculum, before exempting your child. This must be done each year.*

It is not necessary for parents to attend a public review session if they do not intend to exempt their children from HIV/AIDS instruction. Being familiar with the curriculum will enhance your ability to talk with your children about this serious health threat. FLASH curriculum can also be previewed through the King County Department of Public Health at www.kingcounty.gov/health/FLASH

Session Location: **Issaquah School District Administration Center**
565 NW Holly St. Issaquah, WA 98027

Contact Information: Kris Coleman, ColemanK@issaquah.wednet.edu**, 425-837-7123**
9/2/16