

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your school has invited a presenter from Elizabeth's New Life Center (ENLC) to present the *Relationships Under Construction* program to your child's class the week of _____ *Relationships Under Construction* discusses the benefits of abstaining from risky behaviors, including sexual behavior as an unmarried teen. You are being sent this to inform you of the program, and to provide an opportunity for you to opt your child out of participation.

Since this can be a sensitive subject, *the Ohio Revised Code* mandates specific guidelines for teaching abstinence. *Relationships Under Construction* meets Ohio's Legal Requirements for Abstinence Education:

- **Mandate:** As part of health education requirements under Ohio Revised Code [§3313.60](#) (2001), students must receive instruction in "venereal diseases." ORC [§3313.60.11](#) establishes guidelines for venereal disease education, which, along with other stipulations, requires the curriculum to:
 - "Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is 100% effective against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and the sexual transmission of a virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome."
 - Advise students "of the laws pertaining to financial responsibility of parents to children born in and out of wedlock."
- **Parental Approval:** ORC [§3313.60](#) states that, "upon written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be excused from taking instruction in venereal disease education" ("Opt-out" form is below).

RISK and REWARDS : Participants may feel mild discomfort or emotional stress when provided with factual information about the consequences of early sexual activity. However, these risks are far outweighed by benefits that participants gain, especially greater knowledge and skills to make the healthiest choices possible about abstinence and sex.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION: You may decline to permit your child to participate in the program without your child being penalized.

OPTIONAL OPT-OUT OPTION

If you do not want your child to participate, please indicate below:

Please complete this form if you **DO NOT** want your child to attend the *Relationships Under Construction* Program. If we do not receive this form back from you, we will assume you are consenting to this abstinence education program. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Child's Name (Print): _____

- I want my child to participate in the *Relationships Under Construction* presentation. (If you checked this, returning this form is optional.)
- No**, I do not want my child to participate in the *Relationships Under Construction* program. This is my written request to excuse him/her from those classes. (I understand that I must return this form to my child's teacher for my child to be excused.)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date