



#### HEALTH APPRAISAL INFORMATION

**(PLEASE READ THIS IF YOU WANT AN EXAM DONE IN SCHOOL)**

Should you choose to have a health appraisal done by the school physician/provider in school, it will be scheduled at a time convenient to the school. This will advise you of how the appraisal will be conducted in your absence.

First the physician/provider conducts a mini-interview for history either verbally or by asking the student to read a list of questions, or both. The Interview includes age-appropriate questions, which explore psycho-social areas of concern for children identified by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. At the junior and senior high level, these questions include pertinent topics of chemical experimentation and use as well as sexuality, among others. The student is told that if he is uncomfortable discussing such topics with the school physician/provider, the exam should be conducted instead by the private physician.

Next, the physical examination is done. It includes a head-to-toe screening of all major organ systems. You will be advised of any areas of concern found on examination.

In matters pertaining to the psycho-social interview, if there is concern that a student is engaging in activities that are immediately self-injurious, e.g. suicide ideation, you will be notified without delay. In instances where a student's choices cause concern for future problems, e.g. smoking, an appropriate school staff member such as the nurse or counselor will be advised to work with the student. Most often, this includes counseling the student to involve you. Often, the counselor is involved to explore more deeply whether issues discussed with the doctor/provider are of a serious nature. Please understand that students in New York are protected by law to rights of confidentiality in matters pertaining to sexuality. Every effort is made by the school to educate a student about the importance of responsibility in such matters, particularly in regard to involving their parents in their decision making.

We also urge you to involve your primary physician in matters of sexuality. If you feel uncomfortable addressing this issue yourself, we ask that you share the details of the appraisal with your child so that there are no surprises. We also request that you involve your child in the decision of whether the exam should be done in school or by your private physician.

Thank you for your cooperation.