

MIDDLE SCHOOL Options For Opt Out

There are several options to consider when opting your child out of any curriculum content in a Parkway school. Using the correct terminology is important so communication is clear. Frequently Asked Questions as well as sample opt out letters, may be found by visiting www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org.

- **Opt Out:** Your child does not receive the Parkway curriculum that is being taught to the entire classroom. Opt out may include (1) specific lessons (2) units OR (3) the entire course.
- **Homeschool:** Your child will not receive the Parkway curriculum but they will receive instruction at home, with a tutor and/or with a non-Parkway instructor. Students who are homeschooled may also be enrolled in public or private schools.
- **Lesson:** A specific topic such as sexually-transmitted diseases, sexual orientation. Some topics/lessons may be combined such as teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity -- 2 topics covered in the same classroom period.
- **Unit:** Broader than a topic or lesson, this includes all the topics under a broader banner. Examples of units would be first aid, mental health and sex ed.
- **Course:** An entire subject. Because discussion from topics can spill over into other units or lessons, some parents may want to opt their child out of the entire health course.

Middle School Options for Opt Out		
Options	What to do	Considerations
Opt Out of: Sex Ed Lessons or Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call or email your teacher and counselor to request the syllabus to find out specific s on what is being taught & on what day. 2. Send teacher, counselor and principal email/letter stating exactly which day(s) your child will opt out. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, the Parkway Board of Education does not have a policy to address replacement instruction. Therefore, your child will not receive replacement instruction. Please talk to your school counselor about options available for your child during this instruction time. • Your child will receive a PINK SLIP at the beginning of class to go sit in the library (or another designated area) during the entire period. • Students may feel shame or embarrassment when leaving the class to go sit in the library each day to opt out. • Some parents have reported that in years past the start date was ambiguous, they lost track of following up & their child ended up taking the sex ed class.
Opt Out of: All Sexual Health Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send teacher, counselor and principal email/letter stating that your child will opt-out of the entire sexual health unit. 2. Request that teacher provide the dates of exactly when the unit will take place. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child will receive a PINK SLIP at the beginning of class to go sit in the library (or another designated area) during the entire period. • At this time, the Parkway Board of Education does not have a policy to address replacement instruction. Therefore, your child will not receive replacement instruction. Please talk to your school counselor about options available for your child during this instruction time. • Some parents have reported that in years past the start date was ambiguous, they lost track of following up & their child ended up taking the sex ed class.

<p>Opt out of: Entire Health Course</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send email/letter to principal & counselor that your child will not participate in Parkway's Health Course during the entire school year. 2. Request your child either take additional PE in place of Health or another elective. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with your counselor and principal about what your options are for another elective or additional PE. • Parents may be told their child will need to come to school 1 class period late or leave 1 class period early although if the child is opting out (not homeschooling) at the middle school level this should not apply.
<p>Opt out of: Entire Health Course <u>AND</u> Complete an Independent Health Instruction Class</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send email/letter to principal & counselor that your child will not participate in Parkway's Health Course during the entire school year. 2. State your child will be taught health at home or will be enrolled in a health course through a company with a Certified Health Education Specialist. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If taught at home, parents and students will have the opportunity for open dialogue. • Curriculum sets (with teacher edition) usually contain quizzes, tests & answer keys. • Parents may be told their child will need to come to school one class period late or leave one class period early. (At the high school level this should not apply.) • Visit www.GatewayHealthConnections.com for information on a Middle School Health & Wellness Course taught by a Certified Health Education Specialist (and Parkway parent). (This course is also available for High School students.)

HIGH SCHOOL Options For Opt Out

There are several options to consider when opting your child out of any curriculum content in a Parkway school. Using the correct terminology is important so communication is clear. Frequently Asked Questions as well as sample opt out letters, may be found by visiting www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org.

- **Opt Out:** Your child does not receive the Parkway curriculum that is being taught to the entire classroom. Opt out may include (1) specific lessons (2) units OR (3) the entire course.
- **Homeschool:** Your child will not receive the Parkway curriculum but they will receive instruction at home, with a tutor and/or with a non-Parkway instructor. Students who are homeschooled may also be enrolled in public or private schools.
- **Lesson:** A specific topic such as sexually-transmitted diseases, sexual orientation. Some topics/lessons may be combined such as teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity -- 2 topics covered in the same classroom period.
- **Unit:** Broader than a topic or lesson, this includes all the topics under a broader banner. Examples of units would be first aid, mental health and sex ed.
- **Course:** An entire subject. Because discussion from topics can spill over into other units or lessons, some parents may want to opt their child out of the entire health course.

High School Options for Opt Out		
Options	What to do	Considerations
Opt Out of: Sex Ed Lessons or Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call or email your teacher and counselor to request the syllabus to find out specifics on what is being taught & on what day. 2. Send teacher, counselor and principal email/letter stating exactly which day(s) your child will opt out. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, the Parkway Board of Education does not have a policy to address replacement instruction. Therefore, your child will not receive replacement instruction. Please talk to your school counselor about options available for your child during this instruction time. • Your child will receive a PINK SLIP at the beginning of class to go sit in the library (or another designated area) during the entire period. • Students may feel shame or embarrassment when leaving the class to go sit in the library each day to opt out. • Some parents have reported that in years past the start date was ambiguous, they lost track of following up & their child ended up taking the sex ed class.
Opt Out of: All Sexual Health Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send teacher, counselor and principal email/letter stating that your child will opt-out of the entire sexual health unit. 2. Request that teacher provide the dates of exactly when the unit will take place. 3. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, the Parkway Board of Education does not have a policy to address replacement instruction. Therefore, your child will not receive replacement instruction. Please talk to your school counselor about options available for your child during this instruction time. • Your child will receive a PINK SLIP at the beginning of class to go sit in the library (or another designated area) during the entire period.

For High School Students Opting Out of Parkway's Health Course, several options are available.

<p>Enroll your child in Parkway's Virtual Learning Health Course</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact your child's counselor to determine registration timeline.** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led/supervised by a Parkway instructor, Parkway's online learning will have the same content as the in-class curriculum. This means objectionable topics will be included. • Opting out of certain topics or units still applies. • Students work at home & can discuss with parent(s). • Students won't experience the shame & embarrassment of leaving class or getting daily permission slip. • Your student will have ½ credit space in their schedule to take another elective. • No financial cost. • ** This course is offered during the summer as well as during the school year. Enrollment for this course is through a lottery system. Space is limited and consists of mostly upperclassman. Therefore, few students are chosen & there is no guarantee your child will win the lottery.
<p>Enroll your child in the "MO Virtual Instruction Program" (MO VIP)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to movip.org and register for desired class. 2. Send an email/letter to your child's counselor and principal informing them of your decision. 3. Provide proper documentation to your child's counselor upon completion of course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This basic online health class traditionally has not had objective topics and has been consistently age appropriate. • Students won't experience the shame & embarrassment of leaving class or getting daily permission slip. • Your student will have ½ credit space in their schedule to take another elective. • Average cost based on which vendor you choose is approximate \$200. • The student will receive <u>acknowledgement</u> they have satisfied the state criteria for that content area. They will not, however, receive Parkway's credit for that class. Students might need to take an extra elective to ensure they have the state mandated 24 credits to graduate.
<p>Enroll your child in Gateway Health Connection's Health & Wellness Course</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to www.GatewayHealthConnections.com and register for desired course. 2. Send email/letter to principal & counselor that your child will not participate in Parkway's Health Course during the entire school year. 3. State your child will be enrolled in a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellness course led by a Parkway parent with a master's degree in health education. Class is outside of the Parkway school system. • Independent home study as well as class instruction. • Values taught will align with sexual integrity. • Federal & state law says schools must accept home school classes with appropriate documentation. • Upon completion of course student will be provided (1) a certificate of completion

	<p>health course through a company with a Certified Health Education Specialist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Provide proper documentation to your child's counselor upon completion of course. 5. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter. 	<p>(2) portfolio of work and (3) course/study log to present as documentation for your child's counselor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must track their at-home hours & in-class hours on a Course/Study Log. • Student will do independent mini-research based on their area of interest. • Limited number of slots available. Waiting list will be compiled. • Cost of instruction & book apply. • Students can take this course either during the summer. Additional courses may be offered during the school year. • The student will receive <u>acknowledgement</u> they have satisfied the state criteria for that content area. They will not, however, receive Parkway's credit for that class. Students might need to take an extra elective to ensure they have the state mandated 24 credits to graduate.
<p>Home Instruction for Health</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send email/letter to principal & counselor that your child will not participate in Parkway's Health Course during the entire school year. 2. State your child will be taking Health through Home Instruction. 3. Choose which Health curriculum to teach. 4. Provide proper documentation to your child's counselor upon completion of course. 5. Visit www.ProtectParkwayStudents.org for a sample opt-out letter and examples of Health curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and students will have the opportunity for open dialogue. • Federal & state law says schools must accept home school classes with appropriate documentation. • Curriculum sets (with teacher edition) usually contain quizzes, tests & answer keys. • Parents will need to create their own structure (record keeping, keeping tests, tabulating percentages if they wish) for documentation. • Parents will need to provide proper documentation to the school counselor showing record (proof) of receiving the Health course at home. • The student will receive <u>acknowledgement</u> they have satisfied the state criteria for that content area. They will not, however, receive Parkway's credit for that class. Students might need to take an extra elective to ensure they have the state mandated 24 credits to graduate.