**Tennessee Family Life Law Do’s and Don’ts**

**DO:**

* Emphatically promote abstinence as the only risk avoidance behavior.
* Use age appropriate, medically accurate, and evidence based programming.
* Build a foundation of knowledge and skills relating to character development, human development, decision making, abstinence, contraception, and disease prevention.
* Teach information on healthy relationships, how sexual activity impacts the whole person, and encourage students to communicate with a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult.
* Teach refusal skills and allow students to practice these skills.
* Address the challenges of being a teen parent including the social and financial responsibilities of parenting.
* Discuss the relationship between risky behaviors such as substance use, dating violence, and sexual aggression (assault).
* Teach students how to develop healthy relationships and how to identify/avoid/get out of unhealthy relationships.
* Teach consent, puberty, pregnancy, childbirth, sexually transmitted diseases, including but not limited to HIV/AIDS.
* Teach information on the prevention of sex abuse and human trafficking.
* Provide parents/guardians with a 30 day notification and allow them to review all materials and/or confer with the instructor. Parents/guardians may opt students out without penalty so long as the students completes alternative assignments provided by the classroom teacher.

**DO NOT:**

* Teach nor promote gateway sexual activity nor non-abstinent behavior/sexual experimentation.
* Provide nor distribute contraception nor make referrals for contraceptive services.
* Demonstrate how to use condoms with devices specifically manufactured for sexual stimulation

**Other:**

* Medically accurate information on contraception is allowed as long as it does not promote gateway behaviors and students are informed that such measures only reduce the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. It must be pre-approved by the governing body of the school.
* Outside providers (qualified healthcare professionals and/or social workers) are permitted as guest speakers to teach lessons as long as their programming complies with Tennessee’s Family Life Laws.
* Parents who feel that the law has been violated can file a complaint with the Director of Schools.