



October 10, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Westbrook Public Schools steps to comply with Public Act 14-196, requiring Connecticut public schools to develop curriculum to protect students from being victimized by inappropriate adult behaviors. In our efforts to comply with that mandate, we have recognized the need to expand our health curriculum (pre K-12) to empower our students with the necessary skills to avert dangerous or abusive situations. Following the work of a state task force on this issue, the CT State Department of Education issued guidelines to direct all school districts to provide instructional modules for teachers and age appropriate educational materials for students. The guidelines known as the Statewide K-12 Sexual Assault and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Program served as a resource to develop addendum to the Westbrook Board-approved Health curriculum. Our professionals believe that we are now ready to begin delivering the lessons designed to help our students recognize potential trouble, to act assertively to rebuff it, and take necessary safety steps if it occurs. The pilot curriculum addendum lessons will be delivered in the following manner.

- At the elementary level, classroom teachers have created and will deliver several lessons over the course of the school year with assistance from student support staff.
- At the middle school level, the lessons have been created and will be delivered by the health teachers and computer teacher with assistance from student support staff.
- At the high school level, the lessons have been created and will be delivered by the health teacher with assistance from student support staff.

During our year-long preparation to develop curriculum and lessons, we realized that this work is not a task for the schools alone. We acknowledge that we, educators and families, must work together. Toward that end, we have prepared a special panel discussion on **Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 pm** in the **Daisy Ingraham School Cafeteria**. The hour-long forum will provide parents/guardians with background information on the process, delivery and content of these lessons as well as the school/community supports. School and community-based professionals that represent different aspects of this initiative will be on-hand to educate and take questions from the attendees. Panel members include:

- Seana Nygard, Grade 1 teacher
- Marilyn Brown, Daisy School Psychologist
- Dana Runkle, Middle School Computer Technology Teacher
- Allison Carr, High School Health Teacher
- Shannon Murphy, Westbrook Youth and Family Services
- Madeline Illinger, Director of Special Services
- Patricia A. Ciccone, Westbrook Superintendent
- State Police Troop F Representative
- The panel will be facilitated by Esther Bobowick, CES Educational Consultant

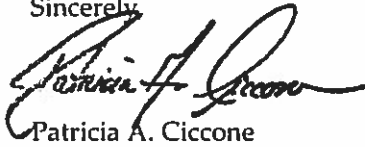
158 McVeagh Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

Email: pciccone@westbrookctschoools.org Phone: (860) 399-6432 Fax: (860) 399-8817

Thank you for considering attending this event. Please direct any questions about this important educational forum specifically for parents/guardians to Michele Hammond (mhammond@westbrookctschools.org) or Madeline Illinger (millinger@westbrookctschools.org).

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Ciccone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "C".

Patricia A. Ciccone