

## Appendix D: Draft Opt-Out Letter

Per Missouri law, school districts must notify parents or guardians in advance of child sexual abuse prevention education and of the parent's or guardian's right to have the student excused from the instruction. A sample parental opt-out letter is included in Appendix D. In addition, it is recommended that parents and guardians be provided with an overview of the content of the curriculum.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Beginning in school year 2020-21 and every year thereafter, our district will provide age- and developmentally appropriate sexual abuse prevention education to students. The goal of this programming is to keep your children safe. This programming may include a variety of discussions, activities, videos and role play scenarios. These lessons empower children to respond to child sexual abuse and to provide students with the tools needed for personal safety. Under Missouri law this education will include the following components, at a minimum:

1. instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to recognize sexual abuse,
2. instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to report an incident of sexual abuse,
3. actions that a student who is a victim of sexual abuse could take to obtain assistance and intervention, and
4. available resources for students affected by sexual abuse.

Nationwide, one in 10 students will be the victim of child sexual abuse before the age of 18. Through this program aimed at educating and empowering students, we want to provide your student with the knowledge and skills to use if ever affected by sexual abuse. If you have any questions about the content of the program, please contact your school's principal or counselor.

**All students will participate in sexual abuse prevention lessons unless you choose for your child to NOT participate. Please sign below and return only if you do NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE.**

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer my child **not** participate in the lessons on sexual abuse prevention.

\*Please return by \_\_\_\_\_