

2014-2014 School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England is excited to announce that we are now recruiting students for our Peer Education Program for Manchester high school youth. PPNNE's Peer Education program seeks to empower high school students with accurate, factual reproductive and sexual health knowledge to benefit themselves, their peers and the community.

We know that parents and schools are already working to educate young people about reproductive and sexual health. Common myths persist; this program will empower youth with the knowledge and skills to address these myths and misconceptions in spaces where adults rarely have access.

The state of New Hampshire continues to have the lowest teen birth rate in the country with 13 per 1,000 girls age 15-19 giving birth each year. **However, Manchester as a city is more than double the NH rate at 31 birth per 1,000 girls age 15-19.** Additionally, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that 42.6% of Manchester high school students report having sexual intercourse and of those only 60.0% report using condoms during last intercourse. This new Peer Education program aims to provide additional information and resources to support healthy decision-making for Manchester teens.

Volunteer students in the Peer Educator Program will receive specialized training in reproductive and sexual health to prepare them for their role as Peer Educators. Additionally, students will be able to engage in self-directed learning through opportunities to develop and deliver programs of their choosing, with guidance and support from PPNNE staff. This training will give participants the opportunity to practice empathy with others, to gain practical experience in the field of public health and health care advocacy, and to earn volunteer hours.

Permission must be given in order for an individual to participate and there will be a parent/guardian open house for participating students before training starts. Peer Educators must attend and successfully complete a training program scheduled to begin January 2015 which will be handled by PPNNE staff.

We are excited to begin this program and are happy to answer your questions. If your teen would like more information or an application, please contact us or visit www.ppnne.org and click on Education & Training. We're also looking for parents who are interested in volunteering on our program Advisory Committee. Let us know if you're interested!

Sincerely,

Jaime Chabot

Peer Education Coordinator
education@ppnne.org