

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has a GAME Program to Promote Health Among Teens (PHAT), Abstinence Only for schools within their Nation borders. A letter from the Choctaw Nation follows this letter and explains the PHAT Program for our 7th and 8th Grade students. This program is totally optional and is in no way intended to Parent your child on abstinence, rather, it is intended to be a supplement for you as a parent in dealing with this sensitive topic.

Your child will be bringing home a permission form for participation in this Program. Again, it is totally optional and if you do not wish for your child to participate, they will be allowed to stay in the normal classroom and continue working on assignments. Please be sure to return the consent form attached to the handout your child will bring home.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the Program, there is a contact number for Vickie Pachenco with the Choctaw Nation on the information page following this letter as well as the information packet your child is bringing home.

Thank You!

Tracy S. Blasengame, Superintendent

Gary Batton, Chief
Jack Austin Jr., Assist Chief



Angela Dancer, Sr. Director
Vicki Pacheco, Director

Choctaw Nation Better Beginnings

GAME Program

PO Box 88 Hugo, OK 74743

580-326-8304 Fax: 580-326-2410

Dear Parent or Guardian:

During the 2020-2021 school year the Choctaw Nation GAME Program will be implementing an evidence-based educational curriculum Promoting Health Among Teens, Abstinence Only in **School Districts located in Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LaFlore, and Pittsburg counties**. The counties of Coal, Hughes, and Pittsburg have some of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Southeast Oklahoma. The Promoting Health Among Teens, Abstinence Only curriculum will be taught to Middle School students in grades 7th and 8th. This program is funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau. The program goal is to promote avoidance of sexually risky behaviors and non-marital sexual activity in a way that teen sexual activity is not normalized. This program helps students learn about puberty, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV, and pregnancy prevention. Each participant will receive age appropriate, evidence-based and medically accurate lessons on refraining from non-marital sexual activity and preventing other youth risk behaviors. The Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT): Abstinence Only lessons are designed to teach youth personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, a focus on the future, and the prevention of youth risk behaviors such as drug and alcohol use without normalizing teen sexual activity. The Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT): Abstinence Only lessons emphasize that abstinence until marriage is the safest choice. All lessons will be taught by trained instructors from the Choctaw Nation GAME Program during the school day. **Seventh and eighth grade students will receive 12 lessons**. Students will learn and practice ways to resist the pressure to have sex. Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT): Abstinence Only program includes homework activities to help parents and children talk about personal limits. This homework is voluntary and students will not share their parent's answers in class. You are welcome to preview the Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT): Abstinence Only materials. Please contact **Vicki Pacheco** at **580-743-0898** to arrange a preview time and answer any questions you may have about the program. You are also welcome to contact the Choctaw Nation Human Protections Officer, **David Wharton**, at **580-286-4724**.

Please review the information below, sign and return this form to the school.

Thank You for Your Support

What Are the Risks of The Study?

The risks involved in the study are minimal as it involves filling out questionnaires and pre/post testing.

What about Confidentiality?

Efforts will be made to keep each student's identity confidential. Students will not be identifiable by name in any reports of data collection. Students will be identified by number codes during pre/post testing therefore insuring confidentiality of all students' data.

Are There Benefits to Taking Part in The Study?

We hope that the information being taught to students will educate them in making healthy decision when it comes to sexual health and also help adolescents in the future.

Will I Be Paid For Participating in The Study?

There are no costs for participation in the program and the research evaluation of the program itself. However, students will receive incentives for participating and completing the curriculum.

What Are My Rights As a Participant?

Taking part in the study is voluntary. If you agree to participate and then decide against it, you may withdraw for any reason and leave the study at any time. Not participating in the program will not affect your grades or school involvement in any way.

PHAT Curriculum Includes:

- **Module 1:** Getting to Know You and Steps to Making Your Dreams Come True
- **Module 2:** Goals and Dreams
- **Module 3:** Puberty and Adolescent Sexuality: Part 1
- **Module 4:** Puberty and Adolescent Sexuality: Part 2
- **Module 5:** Making abstinence Work for Me
- **Module 6:** Consequences of Sex: HIV Infection
- **Module 7:** The Consequences of Sex: Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- **Module 8:** The Consequences of Sex: Pregnancy Part 1
- **Module 9:** The Consequences of Sex: Pregnancy Part 2
- **Module 10:** Improving Sexual Choices and Negotiation
- **Module 11:** Role-Play: Refusal and Negotiation Skills
- **Module 12:** Building Negotiation Skills

Informed Consent:

It is the Choctaw Nation's interest to analyze all of the aggregated data collected from the total student body and share those results with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family and Youth Services, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and School Board Professionals upon request if they so desire. Data will represent the total study on population which includes schools in Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LaFlore, and Pittsburg counties with similar demographics, but could be drafted by individual school districts to inform school professionals of future curricula materials that may be beneficial to their individual school.

_____ **I give permission** for my child to participate in the GAME Program, in which study personnel will gather the data necessary to evaluate the program's success from my child's participation. It is further understood that precautions will be taken to protect my child's confidentiality.

_____ **I do not give my permission** for my child to participate in the GAME Program.

Media Release Consent

By signing below, I (give/don't) permission for Choctaw Nation GAME Program to capture and use any photos, videos, or other types of media taken while participating in the GAME Program. I understand that photos taken may be published in the Biskinik, Choctaw Nation associated websites, social media, used as advertisement or in presentations, and any other type of marketing or media outlet.

_____ I Do Give Permission _____ I Do Not Give Permission

Parent or Authorized
Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date

Student Signature

Print Name

Date

Parent or Authorized Guardian Email: _____

Student email: _____

Student Address: _____

Phone Number: _____