



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

PROJECT NAME: Increasing Parent Engagement Around Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
SEMESTER: Spring/Summer 2019
PRECEPTOR: Janine O'Donnell

DESCRIPTION: Michigan law requires sex education be provided in schools. While the law broadly requires that sex education materials be age-appropriate, medically accurate, and contain certain elements, individual sexual education curriculum vary widely across the state. Given the broad range of possible curricula, it may come as no surprise that parents do not always know what information their children are being taught. The purpose of this internship is to increase parent engagement around sexual education by better understanding parent attitudes about what they think their child is being taught and by learning what they would like their child to learn. The intern will talk with parent leaders in the community and work closely with schools to increase parent involvement on Sexual Education Advisory Boards (SEABs).

IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH: Engaging parents in conversations around sex education and sexually transmitted infections will help participating schools improve their sex education curriculum. These conversations may also identify gaps in what parents think their child is learning versus what they are actually learning, which creates an opportunity for parents to have additional conversations with their child.

APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Research new insights

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- The intern will talk to parents about they think their child is learning and what they would like their child to learn. They will prepare a paper and/or presentation summarizing their findings
- The intern will prepare and present their project at the Student Research Day

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Students applying for this internship must be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program. Computer proficiency required.

SKILLS: The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

- Speak effectively to individuals/groups
- Identify problems and needs
- Set priorities
- Summarize/write clearly and concisely
- Handle many tasks at once
- Accept differing opinions
- Identify appropriate information sources