

2422 HEALTH EDUCATION

The Board of Directors will provide a comprehensive health education program aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Content Standards. This program will be a coordinated sequential curriculum at all grade levels, with instructional units appropriate to the age, growth and development, and maturity of pupils.

The Superintendent will develop and recommend to the Board a program of health education designed for pupils to master the Cumulative Progress Indicators of the Department of Education's Comprehensive Health Education and Physical Education Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Staffing

Except as provided below for human sexuality and family life education, courses in health education will be taught by teachers whose certification qualifies them to teach health education. Teachers of the human sexuality and family life, substance use and abuse, and HIV prevention programs will be offered specific in-service training.

Excusal

Any pupil whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) presents to the School Principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, human sexuality and family life education or sex education program is in conflict with his/her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from the portion of the course in which such instruction is being given, and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result.

Community Involvement

The Superintendent will ensure the program is aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards. The programs of instruction for human sexuality and family life education will be developed through appropriate consultation and in participation with teachers, school administrators, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), appropriate age school pupils, physicians, members of the clergy, and representative members of the community. Such consultation shall continue, as appropriate, as the program is continually evaluated and revised.

Human Sexuality and Family Life Education

All pupils will learn the biological, cultural, and psychological aspects of human sexuality and family life. The Board will adopt a coordinated, sequential human sexuality and family life education program aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Any education that is given as part of any planned course, curriculum or other instructional program and that is intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to human sexual behavior, sexual feelings and values, human sexuality and reproduction, pregnancy avoidance or termination, HIV infection or sexually transmitted diseases, and any materials including, but not limited, to handouts, speakers, notes or audiovisuals presented on school property concerning methods for the prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy, will stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy.

The Board will include in its human sexuality and family life curriculum instruction on reasons, skills and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from sexual activity. Any instruction concerning the use of contraceptives or prophylactics, such as condoms, will also include information on their failure rates for preventing pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in actual use among adolescent populations and shall clearly explain the difference between risk reduction through the use of such devices and risk elimination through abstinence. In addition, the human sexuality and family life curriculum will stress the importance of avoiding intravenous drug use.

A copy of the complete district human sexuality and family life education curriculum and all instructional materials shall be available for public inspection in each school in the district prior to its use in any classroom. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each pupil enrolled in the program shall receive annually an outline of the curriculum and a list of instructional materials for that pupil's grade along with notice of the availability for review of the complete curriculum and all materials.

The human sexuality and family life program may be taught by district personnel certified to teach biology, comprehensive science, elementary grades, health, health and physical education, home economics, nursery school, psychology, or special education classes, and the school nurse. The program may utilize the contributions of such community resource persons as parent(s) or legal guardian(s), physicians, the clergy, attorneys, school social workers, school psychologists, and law enforcement personnel. The Board encourages the utilization of teachers in other disciplines through an interdisciplinary approach.

Use and Abuse of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

All pupils will learn the physical, mental, emotional, and social effects of the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The Board will adopt a coordinated, sequential human sexuality and family life education program aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-1 et seq.; 18A:35-4 et seq.;
18A:40A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5