

INSTRUCTION

Sexual Health Education Procedures

All instruction and materials for the District's sexual health education program, will meet the following criteria:

- A. Medically and scientifically accurate;
- B. Age appropriate;
- C. Appropriate for students regardless sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, and the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability.
- D. Consistent with the *Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention*;
- E. Include instruction about abstinence;
- F. Include information about contraceptives;
- G. Include information about methods to prevent sexually transmitted diseases

Definitions

The District's program will provide sexual health education as defined by the Healthy Youth Act (RCW 28A.300.475).

A. Sexual health education:

The Healthy Youth Act defines sexual health education as:

1. The physiological, psychological and sociological developmental processes experienced by an individual;
2. The development of intrapersonal and interpersonal skills to communicate respectfully and effectively to reduce health risks and choose healthy behaviors;
3. Health care and prevention resources;
4. The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships; and

5. Understanding of the influences of family, peers, community and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships.

B. Medically and scientifically accurate:

The Healthy Youth Act defines medically and scientifically accurate as information that is verified or supported by research in compliance with scientific methods, is published in peer review journals, where appropriate, and is recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the field of sexual health including but not limited to, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention:

This publication, prepared by the DOH and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), provides the fundamental framework for establishing a medically and scientifically accurate sexual health education program for students. A copy of the Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention is located on the DOH and OSPI Web sites.

Adoption of a Sexual Health Education Program

The District must ensure that all instructional materials are medically and scientifically accurate. All sexual health education programs must include information on methods to prevent pregnancy, HIV infection, and other sexually transmitted disease, and that abstinence as the only one hundred percent effective means of preventing pregnancy. . Abstinence may not be taught to the exclusion of instruction on contraception and disease prevention.

When choosing curriculum, District staff may examine the list of materials reviewed for medical and scientific accuracy that are located on the DOH website at www.doh.wa.gov. In determining curriculum, the District staff may review the OSPI's list of commonly used sexual health education curricula that were reviewed for their alignment with the guidelines. Although the list is not exhaustive, the list is updated annually and is posted on the OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us. The District's will ensure that the sexual health education program is consistent with the *Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention*.

Adoption Process

Resource Adoption Committee

The Resource Adoption Committee will identify curriculum and will consist of the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, administrators and teachers. The Resource Adoption Committee will research and identify at least two (2) separate curricula and supporting materials for the consideration of the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee.

Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee

The Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee will review the curriculum recommended by the Resource Adoption Committee to ensure that all sexual health curricula, comply with applicable federal and state law and is relevant to the particular needs or unusual characteristics of the District. Additionally, this committee will ensure the Sexual Health curriculum is medically and scientifically accurate, age appropriate, suitable for all students regardless of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, and the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability.

Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee Membership:

This committee will consist of the District's Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) as organized in Policy 2020 which include six (6) teachers, four (4) parents (persons who have child(ren) attending Snohomish Schools, two (2) building administrators; the administrative assistant for Teaching and Learning Services, the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Services, and two (2) community at-large representatives (persons who may or may not have child(ren) in Snohomish Schools). In addition to the IMC Committee, the District will include (2) community members chosen by an application process for the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee. The District will advertise via its website and communicate through each school open positions for this committee. An application form will be required, and the participants will be chosen by the information provided.

An effort will be made to balance the committee with K-12 representation and some members may serve in more than one role. All members will be appointed by the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Services will serve as the chairperson of this committee, and the administrative assistant for Teaching and Learning Services will serve as the secretary. Action by the committee will require that a quorum be present.

Field Test

As part of the adoption process the District may conduct a field test. The Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee will recommend to the Superintendent whether the field test

should be opt-in or opt-out. The Superintendent will make the decision on the opt-in or opt-out status. Field testing can provide a flexible opportunity to investigate the effectiveness of curricular approaches, instructional materials, and/or assessment resources through careful experimentation for an identified purpose base on student needs. The schools and classes will be identified, and permission forms and materials will be provided to parents. If Parents decide to have their child not participate in the class, they will be offered alternative educational opportunities that are exclusive of the sexual health subject.

Parent and Community Input

- Curriculum and materials under consideration will be made available to the public in electronic or hardcopy format for public review. All textbooks and other major items can be viewed at the District office.
- There will be two public meetings held to present information and gain public feedback and any written comments. Both meetings will be completed prior to the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee meeting.

Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee Review and Recommendation

- The Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee will have an opportunity to review staff, parent, student, and community comments and confirm that the process was followed in choosing the curriculum to be recommended to the Board of Directors.
- Three options are available for the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee: they can recommend adoption, request revisions to the curricula which would be taken back to the Resource Adoption Committee for revisions and review or dismiss the curricula and direct the Resource Adoption Committee to research new material.
- If any revisions are made, if necessary, the curriculum will be brought back again to the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee for a second review.
- The Executive Director of Teaching and Learning will recommend to the Superintendent the Sexual Health Curriculum as recommended by the Sexual Health Curriculum Adoption Committee.

Board Consideration

- The Superintendent will ensure that all policies and procedures have been followed and any adjustments made prior to Board action.

- The Superintendent will recommend the chosen Sexual Health Curriculum to the Board for their approval. The approval process will require two Board meetings, first being informational and the second approval.

Instructional Timeline

Parent/Guardian Material Review Process

One month prior to providing instruction in sexual health education, the District will notify parents that all instructional materials are available to parents/guardians for review. The materials will include written materials and electronically formatted materials. The opportunity for review will be provided at a time and place convenient for parent/guardian participation such as evenings.

Parental/Guardian Notification Process

One month prior to teaching sexual health education, each school will provide written notice to parents of the planned instruction. A parent/guardian who wishes to have their student excused from sexual health education may do so by filling a written request (2125F.1 or 2125F.2) prior to the planned instruction.

Protest Procedure for Instructional Materials

When a parent/guardian or employee challenges any instructional materials used or is requesting material be restricted from use in the schools, the following steps should be taken:

1. Concerns should first be discussed with the certificated teacher and/or the school principal. All parties are urged to resolve the concern at this level.
2. If the concerns cannot be resolved through discussion at the school level, the following steps will be taken, and the challenged instructional material will continue to be used until a decision is rendered:
3. The parent/guardian or employee may register a request for reconsideration with the Superintendent or designee. This request will be forwarded to the Instructional Material Committee (IMC). The IMC will review the complaint and will respond with their recommendation, in a timely manner, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will notify the complainant of the decision in writing within ten (10) school business days.

Classification: Priority

Adoption Date: October 24, 2018