

FAMILY LIFE/ SEX EDUCATION

The Governing Board believes that a wholesome, well-planned sequence of instruction about family life and human sexuality is essential to the general education of all students. Lack of information or pervasive misinformation can cause low self-esteem, increased risk for sexually transmitted disease, unintended pregnancy or sterility, and school dropout. The district curriculum shall help students understand the biological, psychological, social, moral, and ethical aspects of human sexuality.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Required notification of rights and availability of nutrition and individualized instruction programs

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

51240 Excuse from health instruction and family life and sex education due to religious beliefs

51550 Sex education courses

51553 Sex education

51820 Venereal disease instruction; written notification to parent; inspection of instructional material; consensual pupil participation

FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION GUIDELINES, California State Department of Education, 1987.

FAMILY LIFE/ SEX EDUCATION

The district family life/sex education program shall encourage students to be abstinent and to conceptualize sexual behavior in the ethical and moral context of marriage. The program shall be age-appropriate and shall address a full range of topics, including parenting and birth control, and shall emphasize that abstinence from sex is the only totally effective protection against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted AIDS. All courses that discuss sexual intercourse shall satisfy the criteria established by law. (Education Code 51553)

At the secondary level, the family life/sex education program shall be placed in a course that is required for all students.

Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation, either preservice or inservice, in the subject area.

Evaluation

The Superintendent shall ensure that family life/sex education materials and instruction are continuously evaluated in light of information received from students, parents/guardians, and teachers. Such information can indicate what students did or did not learn, whether the program was workable for the teachers, and how it can be improved.

Parent/Guardian Notification and Involvement

Parents/guardians shall be notified in writing before students are offered any instruction in which human reproductive organs and their functions, processes, or diseases are described, illustrated, or discussed. This notification shall inform parents/guardians that they may request in writing that their child not attend the class. No student shall attend such instruction if the school receives this request. (Education Code 51550, 51820) At the parent/guardian's request, any student may be excused from any part of family life/sex education instruction. (Education Code 51240)

(cf. 6144 - Controversial Issues)

The notifications specified above shall be either mailed to all parents/guardians or sent home with all students at the beginning of each school year. If notice is sent home with the students, parents/guardians shall be asked to sign and return to the school a slip indicating that they have read the notification.

All materials used for the above instruction shall be available for inspection by parents/guardians at reasonable times and places prior to the onset of instruction. The above notification shall inform parents/guardians of their right to inspect these materials. (Education Code 51550, 51820)

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Material)

FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION

In all sex education courses that discuss sexual intercourse, course material and instruction shall:

1. Be age appropriate.
2. Stress that abstinence is the only contraceptive method which is 100% effective, and that all other methods of contraception carry a risk of failure in preventing unwanted teenage pregnancy. Statistics based on the latest medical information shall be provided to students citing the failure and success rate of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing pregnancy.
3. Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious possible hazards of sexual intercourse. Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information citing the failure and success rates of condoms in preventing AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
4. Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual intercourse outside of marriage and the consequences of unwanted adolescent pregnancy.
5. Stress that students should abstain from sexual intercourse until they are ready for marriage.
6. Teach honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage.
7. Advise students of the laws pertaining to their financial responsibility to children born in and out of wedlock.
8. Advise students that it is unlawful for males of any age to have sexual relations with females under the age of 18 to whom they are not married pursuant to Penal Code 261.5.
9. Emphasize that the student has the power to control personal behavior. Students shall be encouraged to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, sense of responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations such as respect for one's self and others.
10. Teach students to not make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances and how to say no to unwanted sexual advances. Students shall be taught that it is wrong to take advantage of, or to exploit, another person. The material and instruction shall also encourage youth to resist negative peer pressure. (Education Code 51553)