

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual

Title: SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION
Section: 704.6
Board Report: 13-0227-PO1

Date Adopted: February 27, 2013

Policy:

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board rescind Board Report 08-0827-PO4 and adopt a new Sexual Health Education Policy ("Policy").

PURPOSE: The Board recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to sexual health education that is applied consistently throughout the District. This Policy reflects the Board's commitment to ensure that the District's comprehensive family life and sexual health education programming:

- is aligned with the *National Sexuality Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12*;
- is developmentally appropriate;
- provides strategies to support all students regardless of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression;
- is culturally sensitive;
- provides a focus on health promotion and risk reduction within the context of the world in which students live;
- is medically accurate;
- emphasizes abstinence as a component of healthy sexual decision-making and the only protection that is 100% effective against unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV when transmitted sexually;
- includes instruction that promotes a wholesome and comprehensive understanding of the emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibility aspects of sexuality and family life;
- is consistent with State laws enacted to address the need for students to receive comprehensive health education;
- emphasizes that parents/guardians are the primary sexual health educators for their child(ren);
- offers parents/guardians information on comprehensive sexual health education provided to students via the District-approved education lessons; and
- offers parents/guardians the opportunity to opt their child(ren) out of comprehensive sexual health education lessons in accordance with State law.

POLICY TEXT:

A. Program Components: The comprehensive sexual health education instructional program in grades kindergarten through 12th grade provides a foundation of knowledge and skills related to human development, relationships, decision-making, abstinence, medically-recommended contraception and disease prevention. At each grade level, the instructional program teaches developmentally-appropriate, medically-accurate information that builds on the knowledge and skills that were taught in the previous grades.

In grades K-4, the foundational comprehensive sexual health education instruction is comprised of lessons on the following four topic areas specified in the *National Sexuality Education Standards*: anatomy and physiology, reproduction, healthy relationships and personal safety. This foundational instruction is often referred to as Family Life Education.

In grades 5-12, comprehensive instruction expands on the foundational lessons in grades K-4 by providing lessons on the following five topic areas specified in the *National Sexuality Education Standards*: abstinence, healthy relationships (including informed decision-making, sexual orientation, gender identity and personal safety) medically-recommended contraceptives, transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

B. Annual Instruction: Schools shall annually provide developmentally-appropriate and medically-accurate sexual health education at each grade level as part of its instructional program. Lessons should be integrated into common core subjects in accordance with best practice. Schools shall select and use approved lessons and resources identified in the Guidelines to this Policy. Lessons provided to students in grades K-4 shall total a minimum of 300 minutes per school year addressing all four topic areas outlined in Section A of this Policy. Lessons provided to students in grades 5-12 shall total a minimum of 675 minutes per school year addressing all five topic areas outlined in Section A of this Policy.

C. Parent/Guardian Opt-Out: No student whose parent/guardian provides a timely written objection shall be required to participate in any sexual health education lesson and no student shall be suspended or expelled for refusal to participate in any such lesson or program. Any student whose parent/guardian does not provide a written objection to participation in a sexual health education lesson or program shall be required to participate.

D. Mandatory Training for Instructors: Any teacher who provides sexual health education instruction and any other staff member who supports a teacher in providing such instruction must successfully complete the District's Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructor training prior to teaching lessons. Individuals who successfully complete this instructor training shall receive a certificate valid for a four-year period. To ensure all students at every grade level receive comprehensive sexual health instruction, each principal shall annually designate a minimum of two instructors to deliver instruction at his/her school and ensure these instructors successfully complete the required training.

E. Use of Outside Consultants: A school may retain the services of an approved outside consultant to provide sexual health education programming. Outside consultants must be approved in accordance with the process specified in the Guidelines prior to providing a school with sexual health education services. If an outside consultant is unable to provide a course or program that includes all comprehensive components as described in Section A herein, the school must ensure that students receive supplemental instruction to satisfy the comprehensive requirements of this Policy.

F. Anti-Bullying: Schools shall foster a respectful and open learning environment and take steps to support appropriate classroom behaviors and pre-empt behaviors that may disrupt sexual health education lessons. Bullying, intimidation or harassment of students will not be tolerated. Schools shall discipline students who engage in such behaviors to the fullest extent permitted under the Board's Anti-Bullying Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

G. Support and Oversight: The Office of Student Health and Wellness shall oversee Policy implementation and compliance and shall:

1. Provide schools with technical assistance and support to ensure comprehensive sexual health education programming is provided to students in accordance with this Policy;
2. Offer school support services through various departments including the Office of Student Health and Wellness and the Office of Teaching and Learning to ensure full implementation of this Policy;

3. Oversee sexual health education curriculum development and materials review for alignment with research-based characteristics of effective sexual health education, the *National Sexuality Education Standards* and the purpose and objectives of this Policy; and

4. Ensure schools provide comprehensive sexual health education lessons at every grade level in accordance with this Policy by requiring schools to periodically submit implementation reports.

H. Guidelines: The Chief Health Officer or designee in collaboration with the Chief Teaching and Learning Officer or designee shall develop and implement guidelines, procedures and toolkits for the effective implementation of this Policy.

Amends/Rescinds: Rescinds 08-0827-PO4
Cross References: 06-0426-PO4; 96-0124-ED14; 86-0430-ED2; 79-195-7; 75-13-7; 67-810-3; 67-810-4
Legal References: 105 ILCS 110/3; 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1; 105 ILCS 5/27-9.2; 23 IL Admin. Code 1.420(n); *National Sexuality Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12, January 2012*