

Human Growth and Development (Family Life Education)

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The Board of Education recognizes that the purpose of family life education is to help students acquire factual knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values, which will result in behavior that contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family, and society. Among other things, family life education provides instruction directed toward enabling students to discuss problems effectively with parents/guardians or family members. Such communication shall include the willingness and ability to listen, accept criticism, and respond orally with openness, frankness, and honesty, thus demonstrating a mutual respect and love for other members of the family.

Helping students attain a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality is a continuous task of every generation. Parents/guardians have the prime responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The schools should support and supplement parents' and guardians' efforts in the areas of family life and sex education by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss concerns, issues, and attitudes inherent in family life and sexual behavior including moral values. Instruction dealing with family life and sex education, including abstinence, venereal disease, birth control, marriage, parental responsibility, and criminal penalties, as well as other subjects listed in state law will be offered in several different courses.

1. In courses where human reproductive organs and their functions and processes are described, illustrated, or discussed, parents/guardians may request in writing that their children not attend. This request may also be made for other subjects discussed as part of this curriculum.
2. Instructional materials to be used in family life and sex education will be available for inspection by the public during school hours. Parents/guardians must be provided with an outline of human growth and development curriculum used in the students grade level.

The goals of HIV prevention education are to promote healthful living and discourage the behaviors that can put a young person at risk of acquiring HIV. Parents and guardian shall have convenient opportunities to preview all HIV prevention curricula. If a parent or guardian submits a written request to a principal that a child not receive instruction in specific HIV prevention topics at school, the child shall be excused without penalty or stigma.

The educational program will:

- Be consistent with community standards
- Follow content guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Be appropriate to student's developmental level, behaviors and cultural backgrounds
- Build knowledge and skills over time
- Stress the benefits of and identify the skills necessary to remain abstinent from pornography, sexual activity, alcohol, and other drug use
- Include accurate information on reduction the risk of HIV infection
- Address students own concerns
- Be an integral part of a comprehensive school health program
- Be taught by well-prepared instructions with adequate support
- Involve parents and families as partners in education
- Explain sex offender requirements under state law