

TEACHING ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians are the primary source of sexuality education for their children. The Board also recognizes that effective sexuality education, taught in concert with parents/guardians, helps students avoid risks to their health and academic success and prepares them to make informed decisions as adults. Therefore, pursuant to requirements of state law, if the district chooses to use any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases the materials and instruction shall be medically and factually accurate and shall:

1. Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried students because it is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity. Students shall be advised that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school because of the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy.
2. Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious, possible health hazards of sexual activity. Students shall be provided with the latest medical information regarding exposure to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human papilloma virus, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases.
3. Present students with the latest medically factual information regarding both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, or present students with information on contraceptives and pregnancy in a manner consistent with the provisions of the federal abstinence education law.
4. Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity and the consequences of adolescent pregnancy, as well as the advantages of adoption, including the adoption of special needs children, and the processes involved in making an adoption plan.
5. Teach skills of conflict management, personal responsibility and positive self-esteem through discussion and role playing at appropriate grade levels to 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. Students shall be taught not to make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances or otherwise exploit another person. Students shall be taught to resist unwanted sexual advances and other negative peer pressure.

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6. Advise students of the laws pertaining to their financial responsibility to children born in and out of wedlock and advise students of the provisions of chapter 566, RSMo., pertaining to statutory rape.

The district will not permit a person or entity to offer, sponsor or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students if the person or entity is a provider of abortion services. District personnel or district agents will not encourage students to have an abortion.

Students may be separated by gender for human sexuality instruction. Instruction in human sexuality is to be appropriate to the age of the students receiving such instruction.

The district is required to notify the parent/guardian of each student enrolled in the district of the basic content of the district's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student and of the parent's/guardian's right to remove the student from any part of the district's human sexuality instruction. The district is required to make all curriculum materials used in the district's human sexuality instruction available for public inspection as a public record prior to the use of such materials in actual instruction.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted:

Revised:

MSIP Refs: 1.1, 1.3

Legal Refs: ' 170.015, RSMo.

Phelps Co. R-III School District, Edgar Springs, Missouri