

2422 HEALTH EDUCATION

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive health education program through a coordinated sequential curriculum at all grade levels, with instructional units appropriate to the age, growth and development, and maturity of pupils.

The Superintendent shall develop and recommend to the Board a program of health education designed to encourage the attitudes and practices that are conducive to good health, promote well-being, and prevent disease. The program of health education will include instruction in personal health and hygiene, growth and development, nutrition, dental health, mental and emotional well-being, accident prevention and safety, prevention of lyme disease, consumer health, community and environmental health, family life, and the prevention of substance abuse, disease, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and sexual assault.

Staffing

Courses in health education will be taught by school nurses or certified health education teachers whose certification qualifies them to teach health education.

Excusal

Any pupil whose parent or legal guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection prevention education, or sex education is in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from the portion of the course in which such instruction is being given, and no pupil so excused shall be penalized by loss of credit or denial of a diploma otherwise earned.

Community Involvement

The programs of instruction for family living education and HIV prevention shall be developed through appropriate consultation and in participation with teachers, school administrators, parents or legal guardians, secondary school pupils, physicians, members of the clergy, and representative members of the community, so that each revision of the HIV prevention curriculum is accurate, current, relevant and acceptable. Such consultation shall continue, as appropriate, as the program is continually evaluated and revised.

Family Living Education

The Board will adopt a coordinated, sequential family living education program in grades Kindergarten through twelve which includes instruction in human development, sexuality, HIV prevention, and reproduction; in the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of interpersonal relationships; and in emerging health and social issues.

A copy of the complete district family living education curriculum and all instructional materials shall be available for public inspection in each school in the district as well as on the district website prior to its use in any classroom. The parent or legal guardian of each pupil enrolled in the program shall receive annually an outline of the curriculum and a list of instructional materials for that pupil's grade along with notice of the availability for review of the complete curriculum and all materials. This notice will be provided to the school website and in the district calendar.

The family living curriculum may only be taught by the school nurse or a certified health educator.

Substance Abuse Education

Instructional programs on the nature of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anabolic steroids and their physiological, psychological, sociological, and legal effects on the individual, the family, and society shall be taught at every grade level in a manner adapted to the age and understanding of the pupils. Such substance abuse education will be integrated with the health education program. Substance abuse education in grades seven through twelve will be conducted for a minimum of ten clock hours per school year.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection Prevention Education

HIV/AIDS prevention education shall be provided at the elementary and secondary levels as part of a coordinated sequential comprehensive health education program and shall be articulated with instruction in family living and science. The HIV/AIDS prevention education curriculum shall be available for parental review upon request and on the district website.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6; 18A:35-4.7;
18A:40A-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5; 6:29-4.1; 6:29-4.2;
6:29-6.6

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