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Revised Policy - Vol. 40, No. 2

2418 - SEX EDUCATION

In accordance with Michigan statute ~~and the Michigan Health Education Standard Guidelines~~, the Board of Education authorizes instruction in sex education. Such instruction may include family planning, human sexuality, ~~gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation~~, and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic, and social aspects of family life. Instruction may also include the subjects of reproductive health, ~~consent education~~, and the recognition, prevention, and treatment of sexually transmitted ~~infections ("STIs"), including HIV/AIDS diseases~~.

The instruction described in this policy shall ~~emphasize~~ ~~stress~~ that abstinence from sex is ~~the only protection that is 100% effective against unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV. Instruction shall also articulate the benefits of abstinence, postponing sexual activity, and setting personal limits based on individual beliefs and values~~ ~~a responsible and effective method of preventing unplanned or out of wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and is a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people~~.

Such instruction shall be elective and not a requirement for graduation.

A student shall not be enrolled in a class in which the subjects of family planning or reproductive health are discussed unless the student's parent or guardian is notified in advance of the course and the content of the course, is given a prior opportunity to review the materials to be used in the course and is notified in advance of the parent's/guardian's right to have the student excused from the class. The Michigan Board of Education shall determine the form and content of the notice required in this policy.

Upon the written request of a student or the student's parent or legal guardian, the student shall be excused, without penalty or loss of academic credit, from attending a class described in this policy. If a parent or guardian submits a continuing written notice, the student will not be enrolled in a class described in this policy unless the parent or guardian submits a written authorization for that enrollment.

The District shall provide the instruction by teachers qualified to teach health education. Material and instruction in a sex education curriculum shall be ~~developmentally appropriate, age-appropriate, medically accurate~~ ~~age appropriate, not medically inaccurate~~, and shall comply with the statutory requirements of M.C.L. 380.1507b ~~and align with the Michigan Health Education Standard Guidelines~~.

~~Instruction shall be organized around grade spans (3-5, 6-8, 9-12) and shall address content areas appropriate to each span as detailed in AG 2418 and aligned with the Michigan Health Education Standard Guidelines.~~

~~If a district chooses to include sex education as part of its comprehensive health education program, the district shall~~ ~~The Board~~ shall establish a sex education advisory board and shall determine terms of service for the sex education advisory board, the number of members to serve on the advisory board, and a membership selection process that reasonably reflects the District's population. The Board shall appoint two (2) co-chairs for the advisory board, at least one (1) of whom is a parent of a child attending a District school. At least one-half (1/2) of the members of the sex education advisory board shall be parents who have a child attending a District school, and a majority of these parent members shall be individuals who are not employed by the District. The sex education advisory board shall include students of the District, educators, local clergy, and community health professionals. Written or electronic notice of a sex education advisory board meeting shall be sent to each member at least two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting.

The sex education advisory board shall:

- A. Establish program goals and objectives for student knowledge and skills that are likely to reduce the rates of ~~sexual activity~~ ~~sex~~, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted ~~infections~~ ~~diseases~~. ~~Additional program goals and objectives may be established by the sex education advisory board that are not contrary to Michigan law.~~

- B. Review the materials and methods of instruction used and make recommendations to the Board for implementation. The advisory board shall take into consideration the District's needs, demographics, and trends including, but not limited to, teenage pregnancy rates, ~~STIsexually transmitted disease~~ rates, and incidents of student sexual violence and harassment.
- C. At least once every two (2) years, evaluate, measure, and report the attainment of program goals and objectives established by the advisory board. The Board shall make the resulting report available to parents in the District.

Before adopting any revisions in the materials or methods used in instruction under this policy including, but not limited to, revisions to provide for the teaching of abstinence from sex as a method of preventing unplanned or out-of-wedlock pregnancy and ~~STIsexually transmitted disease~~, the Board shall hold at least two (2) public hearings on the proposed revisions. The hearings shall be held at least one (1) week apart and public notice of the hearings shall be given in the manner required for Board meetings. A public hearing held pursuant to this section may be held in conjunction with a public hearing held pursuant to M.C.L. 380.1169.

~~Teachers providing instruction at the secondary level (Grades 6-12) must hold appropriate endorsements as specified by Michigan statute and the Michigan Department of Education. Instruction in health and sex education shall comply with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and all applicable laws, including parent opt-out provisions. Each person who provides instruction to K to twelve (12) students in accordance with this policy shall receive training based on District approved standards and in accordance with training requirements of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).~~

No person shall dispense or otherwise distribute, in a District school or on District school property, a family planning drug or device.

For purposes of this policy, "family planning" means the use of a range of methods of fertility regulation to help individuals or couples avoid unplanned pregnancies; bring about wanted births; regulate the intervals between pregnancies; and plan the time at which births occur in relation to the age of parents. It may include the study of fetology. It may include marital and genetic information. Clinical abortion shall not be considered a method of family planning, nor shall abortion be taught as a method of reproductive health.

M.C.L. 380.1169, 380.1170, 380.1310b, 380.1507, 380.1507a, 380.1507b
 Act 453 of 1976, as amended by Public Act 6 of 2023 (Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act)

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