

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Membership Application
Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board
(PHASE)

Date 2/11/26

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Please check an appropriate category (you may check more than one):

Interested Citizen
 Community Health Professional

Elementary/Middle/High School Parent
Ages of any children 5th, 11 8th, 14

1. Overall, what are your perceptions regarding health and sexuality education within public schools?

Please see attached document.

2. Do you have any comments about sexuality education within the Okemos district in particular?

Please see attached document.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this committee?

Please see attached document.

4. What specific issues do you believe this committee should address? Please list in order of priority.

Please see attached document.

5. What assets, background, past experiences, useful knowledge, etc., do you have that may assist this committee?

Please see attached document.

6. Are you an employee of the Okemos school district? Yes No
7. Are you willing to come regularly to four to five evening meetings per school year for a period of three years? Yes No

Information for the Applicant

The Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board has been charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Review and recommend instructional materials, guest speakers, and programs which are a part of the comprehensive sexual health program
2. On a regular basis, review methods of instruction and assist in evaluation of the comprehensive sexual health program, reporting to the Board of Education as required
3. Work closely with the school administration in the implementation of this program.
4. Review with policy and/or State guidelines and make recommendations to the Board of Education for needed changes.
5. Perform other duties as suggested by the Supervisor of Reproductive Health, Board of Education, or the Superintendent of Schools.

A reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that the advisory board shall consist of members representing a cross-section of community viewpoints.

Applications are due by November 14, 2025, and should be e-mailed to:

Stacey Molenda

Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

stacey.molenda@okemosk12.net

Your application will be forwarded to a subcommittee of the Okemos Parent Council, who review the applications and recommend applicants to the Okemos School Board. This process may take up to

two months. You will be notified in writing about the status of your application after School Board approval.

Thank you very much for your interest in participating in the process of personal health and sexuality education in Okemos Public Schools.



1. Overall, what are your perceptions regarding health and sexuality education within public schools?

Overall, my perceptions regarding health and sexuality education within public schools, including districts such as Okemos Public Schools, are positive when programs are grounded in accurate information, developmentally appropriate practices, and strong communication with families. From my perspective as a school leader and parent, effective health education should focus on student well being, safety, and informed decision making while respecting family values and maintaining transparency about curriculum and instructional goals.

I believe these programs are most effective when they emphasize social emotional health, healthy relationships, personal responsibility, and mental health alongside physical health topics. It is also important that instruction is delivered in a way that is age appropriate and sensitive to the diverse backgrounds of students and families. Clear communication with parents, opportunities for review of materials, and opt out provisions are essential to maintaining trust and partnership with the community.

In districts like Okemos, which are known for thoughtful curriculum planning and strong family engagement, I see health and sexuality education as an important component of preparing students to make safe and responsible choices, while also supporting their overall development as healthy, informed individuals.

2. Do you have any comments about sexuality education within the Okemos district in particular?

I do not have firsthand knowledge of how sexuality education is currently delivered in Okemos Public Schools, so my comments are based on my general understanding of strong practice in this area. In any district, I believe instruction in this field is most effective when it helps students build knowledge about personal health, boundaries, decision making, and respect for others, while remaining sensitive to the wide range of beliefs and perspectives held by families.

In my own work in school leadership, I have seen how important it is for districts to be intentional about curriculum design, provide clear opportunities for families to review materials, and ensure that instruction is appropriate to students' developmental levels. Programs that are thoughtfully planned and clearly communicated tend to foster confidence among families and staff.

For a district like Okemos, my general impression is that there is careful attention to curriculum quality and family engagement. My encouragement for any district would be to continue strengthening communication, ensuring that instruction reflects current health guidance, and keeping the focus on supporting students in making responsible and informed choices as they grow.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this committee?

I am interested in serving on this committee because I value the opportunity to contribute my professional experience in public education to support the district that serves my children. As a school administrator, I regularly work with curriculum, student support systems, and family communication, and I understand the importance of thoughtful planning, clear processes, and community trust when addressing topics related to student health and well being.

Serving on this committee would allow me to bring that perspective as both an educator and a parent. I care deeply about ensuring that programs are implemented in ways that are developmentally appropriate, aligned with state expectations, and responsive to the needs of students and families. I appreciate the work the district is doing and would welcome the chance to collaborate, listen, and contribute in a way that helps maintain high quality programming for all students.

4. What specific issues do you believe this committee should address? Please list in order of priority.

1. Alignment with state guidance and focused on research based best practices.
2. Developmental appropriateness across grade levels.
3. Support for teachers implementing the curriculum.
4. Clarity and transparency of curriculum and materials
5. Family engagement and feedback opportunities

I believe the committee's work should begin by ensuring that all instruction is aligned with state guidance and grounded in research based best practices. This helps ensure that information presented to students is accurate, current, and consistent with established standards for student health and education.

In addition, it is essential that content is developmentally appropriate across grade levels. A thoughtful scope and sequence allows students to build understanding gradually in ways that match their maturity and readiness.

Another important priority is supporting teachers who are responsible for implementing the curriculum. Clear guidance, professional learning, and access to resources help ensure consistency and confidence in instruction.

Clarity and transparency of curriculum and materials should also remain a focus. Families benefit from knowing what is being taught, when it is taught, and how they can review materials, which strengthens trust and communication.

Finally, the committee should continue to promote meaningful opportunities for family engagement and feedback. Providing avenues for parents and guardians to ask questions and share perspectives helps ensure that programs remain responsive to the community they serve.

5. What assets, background, past experiences, useful knowledge, etc., do you have that may assist this committee?

I bring both professional and personal perspectives that I believe would be valuable to this committee. As a school administrator, I have experience working with curriculum, student support systems, and state and federal requirements that guide instruction in public schools. This work has helped me develop a strong understanding of how to review materials, consider developmental appropriateness, and support staff in implementing programs effectively.

I also currently serve on a district level committee in my own district, which has provided experience collaborating with educators, parents, and community members to review content, discuss concerns, and make recommendations in a thoughtful and balanced way. That experience has strengthened my ability to listen to different perspectives, focus on student needs, and work toward consensus.

In addition, I bring the perspective of a parent whose children are enrolled in the district. I care deeply about the quality of education and the partnership between schools and families, and I would approach this role with a commitment to thoughtful dialogue, transparency, and supporting decisions that are in the best interest of students.

