

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: August 30, 2023

NUMBER: 24-024

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 6142.1,
Instruction, Family
Life/Sex Education; First
Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Improve Stakeholder Communication.

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6142.1, Instruction, Family Life/Sex Education.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when changes in law occur or when specific need occurs. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board. This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 6142.1, Instruction, Family Life/Sex Education.

No public comment was given on this board policy. The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes and recommends approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6142.1, Instruction, Family Life/Sex Education as presented;
2. Do not approve first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6142.1 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading to the proposed revisions to BP 6142.1, Instruction, Family Life/Sex Education.

BP 6142.1 FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION

Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted based on district philosophy and needs.

~~**Note:** For districts receiving federal funds, section 7906 of the Every Student Succeeds Act sets limitations on how districts approach sexual subject matter and sex education. The law requires that federal funds not be used to (1) develop or distribute materials or programs that encourage or promote sexual activity, (2) distribute or aid in the distribution by any organization of obscene materials to minors on school grounds, (3) provide sex education or HIV prevention education unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, or (4) operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools. Non-federal funds may be used for these activities.~~

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The School Board believes that a ~~wholesome~~ holistic, well-planned ~~sequential~~ sequence of instruction about family life and human sexuality is essential to the general education of all students. Lack of information or pervasive misinformation can cause low self-esteem, increased risk for sexually transmitted ~~diseases~~ disease, unintended pregnancy or sterility, and school dropout. The district curriculum shall help students understand the biological, psychological, social, moral, and ethical aspects of human sexuality.

(cf. 5141.41 — Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention)

~~(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)~~

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. ~~6142.2~~ — AIDS Instruction)

The family life/sex education program shall ~~include~~ encourage students to be abstinent and to conceptualize sexual behavior in the health benefit ~~ethical and moral context~~ of abstinence. marriage. The program shall be age-appropriate and shall address a full range of topics, including parenting and birth control, and shall emphasize that abstinence from sex is the only totally effective protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

~~Classes or programs in sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education may only be instructed by a certificated teacher employed by or contracted with the district, or by an individual approved by the School Board who is supervised by a certificated teacher of the district.~~

The Superintendent or designee will inform district curriculum specialists, those who teach sex education, school nurses, and other appropriate school staff of federal funding restrictions regarding the distribution of contraceptives and the development and distribution of materials that may promote or encourage sexual activities. Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation, either preservice or inservice, in the subject area.

(cf. 5141.42 - Professional Boundaries for staff and students)

~~Before curriculum, literature, or materials related to sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education may be used in a class or distributed in a school, the materials shall be approved by the School Board and made available for parents to review.~~

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that family life/sex education materials and instruction are continuously evaluated in light of information received from students, parents/guardians, and teachers, including information about what students did or did not learn, whether the program was workable for the teachers, and how it can be improved.

The Superintendent or designee may appoint a Family Life/Sex Education Advisory Committee representing a divergence of viewpoints to participate in planning, implementing and evaluating the district's family life/sex education program.

(cf. 1220 - Advisory Committees)

Parents/guardians shall be notified in writing at least two weeks before students are offered any instruction in which, description, illustration, or discussion on human reproduction or sexual matters, including human reproductive organs and their functions, processes, or diseases are described, illustrated, or discussed. This notification shall inform parents/guardians that they may review instructional materials to be used in family life, sex education instruction, ~~may review the credentials of any presenter who is not a certified teacher of the district~~ and that they may request in writing that their child not attend the class. At the parent/guardian's request, any student may be excused from any part of family life/sex education instruction. ~~This notification requirement does not apply to the curricula or materials for the training mandated under [AS 14.30.355-356](#).~~ At the parent/guardian's request, any student may be excused from any part of family life/sex education instruction.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)

~~(cf. 6020—Parent Involvement)~~

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.30.016](#) A parent's right to direct the education of the parent's child

[14.30.361](#) Sex education, human reproductive education, and human sexuality education

[14.30.355](#) Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention

[14.30.356](#) Dating violence and abuse policy, training, awareness, prevention, and notices

[14.30.360](#) Curriculum

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, [20 U.S.C. §7906](#), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act ([P.L. 114-95](#) December 10, 2015)

Revised: June 2017

~~September 9/26, /2017~~

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Northwest Arctic Borough School District