

Health Education

The Board is committed to a comprehensive health education and health service program as an integral part of each student's general education. The health education program should emphasize contemporary health information and teach the skills and knowledge necessary for students to understand the function and care of the human body. Such education shall be in support of a parent or guardian's responsibility to assist their child in developing positive, lifelong health habits and value systems; and provide social support for their attitudes and beliefs. The Board believes that one of the greatest opportunities for effective health education lies within the public schools because of the opportunity to reach almost all students at an age where positive, lifelong health habits may be engendered.

The goal of the health education program is to provide students with relevant, accurate, reliable and up-to-date information and skills to make healthy decisions regarding their social, physical, emotional and mental health. Specifically, this will include strategies to support and maintain healthy choices in the standards of Wellness, Addiction and Abuse, Human Growth Development and Human Sexuality, Safety and Emergency Care, Diversity Awareness and Violence Awareness.

In health education courses, students shall be presented with information regarding the complex health related issues which can be encountered in the broad school environment as well as in society. Students will examine the cause and effect of the outcomes of health related choices. Instruction will be given that will emphasize, promote and support abstinence from behaviors that may be harmful to an individual's health, as well as develop skills in making healthy alternate choices.

In addition to the requirements listed below, the Board policies and regulations concerning the approval of new curriculum content, units and materials shall apply to any comprehensive health education courses offered by the District:

1. Instructional materials to be used in comprehensive health education courses shall be available for inspection by the public during school hours. A public forum shall be scheduled to receive public comments.
2. Parents/guardians of all students shall be notified that such courses have been scheduled and that they may request that their child be exempt, without penalty, from a specific portion of the program on the grounds that it is contrary to their religious beliefs or personal values.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall approve an exemption procedure. Principals will review and decide if an individual's exemption request will be granted. If a student is granted an exemption, an alternate learning activity supporting the standard will be arranged.
4. Teachers who provide instruction in comprehensive health education shall have professional preparation in the subject area.

5. Parents/guardians must give their written consent for students to opt-in to a birth control demonstration learning activity. If a student does not have parent/guardian consent, an alternate learning activity supporting the standard will be arranged.

Adopted October 23, 1996
Revised February 9, 2005
Revised September 12, 2007

LEGAL REFS.:

20 U.S.C. 7906 Prohibit use Title 1 Funds to operate a contraception program in NCLB Act schools
C.R.S. 22-1-110.5 Education regarding human sexuality
C.R.S. 22-25-104. Colorado comprehensive health education program
C.R.S. 22-25-105 Review of local comprehensive health education programs
C.R.S. 22-25-106 (4) Local comprehensive health education programs
C.R.S. 22-25-110 (2) Funding of existing programs

CROSS REFS.: IGA, Curriculum Development
IGD, Curriculum Adoption
JLC, Student Health Services and Requirements

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado