

The Board of Education is charged by law with the task of developing an accurate, comprehensive health and physical education program which included a course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction. This policy has been adopted to provide for the development of such a course of study for the schools in this district and to prescribe the standards, requirements and limitations which shall be observed throughout the delivery of the sex education curriculum.

The purpose of this policy is to articulate clear, instructional objectives throughout the district's schools by providing definitive guidelines for sex education and AIDS prevention instruction in a program that will benefit the quality and longevity of the lives of the children of Columbia County.

The sex education program shall be abstinence based. Abstinence shall be defined as a positive lifestyle free from all destructive behavior including sexual activity outside of marriage. This positive lifestyle promotes self-control, character and good self-esteem for children and adolescents. It is the most positive preparation of individuals for health and successful marriage relationships. Teaching the premarital sexual abstinence lifestyle is the best and only means in the age of AIDS of ensuring healthy physical maturity into adulthood.

The program shall include a planned program that shall include instruction relating to the handling of peer pressure, promotion of high self-esteem, local community values, and abstinence from sexual activity as an effective method of preventing acquired immune deficiency syndrome and the only sure method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. This instruction shall emphasize abstinence from sexual activity until marriage and fidelity in marriage as important personal goals.

The instructional program shall be age appropriate. All instruction, curriculum, and any supplemental resources shall be appropriate to the grade level and consistent with the values of the community. Grade level objectives are based on theories of human development that take into account social, psychological, intellectual, cultural, moral and physical aspects of child and adolescent development. These objectives shall be appropriately implemented in a sequential program of instruction to meet the needs and development characteristics of the overwhelming majority of students at any given grade level.

(See next page)

The Superintendent shall prepare a course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction for such grade levels as required by State Board policy. The course of instruction shall be consistent with the purpose and key objectives expressed in this policy. The curriculum shall include instruction concerning human biology, conception, pregnancy, birth, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

At a minimum each course in sex education and AIDS prevention shall:

1. reflect community family values;
2. focus on abstinence until marriage and fidelity in marriage as important personal goals;
3. include instruction in the handling of peer pressure and high self-esteem;
4. emphasize heterosexuality as the norm;
5. emphasize abstinence from sexual activity as an effective method of preventing acquired immune deficiency syndrome and the only sure method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases;
6. emphasize refusal skills to ensure that each student understands the health benefits and social advantages of waiting until marriage to be sexually active.

There is hereby established a Sex/AIDS Education Instructional Materials Review Committee.

1. A majority of the committee shall be composed of non-teaching parents who have children enrolled in the school system and who represent the diversity of the student body.
2. Membership on the committee shall be augmented by others such as educators, health professionals and other community representatives.
3. The committee shall also include a male and female student currently attending the eleventh or twelfth grade.
4. Each school will recommend a parent to serve on the committee. Board members and the Superintendent may recommend additional committee members to include parents, educators, health professional or other community representatives. The final composition of the committee shall be approved by the Board.

(See next page)

The course of study and all instructional materials prepared by the Superintendent shall be reviewed by the Committee prior to its submission to the Board for approval.

Thereafter, on at least a bi-annual basis, membership on the Review Committee shall be updated as may be necessary. No committee member will serve more than two consecutive years. The committee shall review the course of study together with all approved instructional materials, and shall make any further recommendations to the Board of Education concerning the course of study which it may deem appropriate.

To ensure that community standards are upheld, instructors for each course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention shall include only the materials and discussion topics which have been approved by the Board of Education upon recommendation of the Review Committee. There shall be no exceptions. For the purpose of this policy, "instructional materials" shall be defined to include:

1. all printed materials;
2. audios, videos and films;
3. contraceptive devices and instruction pertaining to their use;
4. guest speakers;
5. models of genitalia;
6. any other items brought into the classroom as a part of the curriculum or its delivery.

Prior to sex education instruction, parents or legal guardians are to be notified in writing what instruction is to be provided and be given the opportunity to review all instructional materials to be used, print and nonprint. Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom a course of study in sex education is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not receive such course of study. Each principal shall maintain on file letters from a parent or guardian requesting that their child not participate in instruction in sex education and AIDS prevention.

When gender-sensitive instruction and/or materials are used, males and females shall be taught separately through the eighth grade.

When contraceptives are discussed, the failure rate shall be emphasized. Contraceptive devices shall not be brought into the classroom.

A majority of the sex education and AIDS prevention instruction time shall be used for teaching:

(See next page)

Page 4 - IDBA - SEX EDUCATION/AIDS PREVENTION

1. refusal skills to encourage abstinence;
2. health behavior to avoid disease;
3. self-respect to enhance a positive outlook;
4. principles of correct dating behavior;
5. skills to encourage the setting of constructive goals;
6. that the process of having children is best undertaken in marriage.

PROCEDURE: YES

ADOPTED: 12/14/93

REVISED: 10/1/97

Columbia County Board of Education