

POLICY

Board of Education Bernards Township

**File Code: M 2422
HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive health education program through a coordinated sequential curriculum at all grade levels, with instructional units appropriate to the age, growth and development, and maturity of pupils.

The health education program is designed to encourage the attitudes and practices that are conducive to good health, promote well-being, and prevent disease. The program of health education will include instruction in personal health and hygiene, growth and development, dental health, mental and emotional well-being, accident prevention and safety, consumer health, community and environmental health, family life, the prevention of substance use, disease, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, suicide prevention, bullying prevention, and other mandated areas of instruction.

STAFFING

Except as provided below for family life education, courses in health education will be taught by teachers whose certification qualifies them to teach health education. Teachers of the family life, substance use, and HIV prevention programs will be offered specific in-service training.

EXCUSAL

Any pupil whose parent or legal guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection prevention education, or sex education is in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from the portion of the course in which such instruction is being given, and no pupil so excused shall be penalized by loss of credit or denial of a diploma otherwise earned.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The programs of instruction for family life education and HIV prevention shall be developed through appropriate consultation and in participation with teachers, school administrators, parents or legal guardians, secondary school pupils, physicians, members of the clergy, and representative members of the community, so that each revision of the HIV prevention curriculum is accurate, current, relevant, and acceptable. Such consultation shall continue, as appropriate, as the program is continually evaluated and revised.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

The Board will adopt a coordinated, sequential family life education program in grades K through 12 which includes instruction in human development, sexuality, HIV prevention, and reproduction; in the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of interpersonal relationships;

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and in emerging health and social issues.

A copy of the complete District family life education curriculum and all instructional materials shall be available for public inspection online prior to its use in any classroom. The parent or legal guardian of each pupil enrolled in the program shall receive annually an overview of the curriculum.

The family life program may be taught by District personnel certified to teach biology, comprehensive science, elementary grades, health, health and physical education, home economics, nursery school, psychology, or special education classes, and the school nurse. The program may utilize the contributions of such community resource persons as parents or legal guardians, physicians, the clergy, attorneys, school social workers, school psychologists, and law enforcement personnel. The Board encourages the utilization of teachers in other disciplines through an interdisciplinary approach.

SUBSTANCE USE EDUCATION

Instructional programs on the nature of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anabolic steroids and their physiological, psychological, sociological, and legal effects on the individual, the family, and society shall be taught at every grade level in a manner adapted to the age and understanding of the pupils. Such substance use education will be integrated with the health education program. Substance use education in grades seven through twelve will be conducted for a minimum of ten clock hours per school year.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION PREVENTION EDUCATION

HIV/AIDS prevention education shall be provided at the elementary and secondary levels as part of a coordinated sequential comprehensive health education program and shall be articulated with instruction in family life and science. The HIV/AIDS prevention education curriculum shall be available for parental review upon request.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6; 18A:35-4.7;
18A:40A-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.5; 6:29-4.1; 6:29-4.2;
6:29-6.6

Cross Reference: Policy Nos. 5310, 5250, 5350, 5530, 7430, 8451, 8453

ADOPTED: November 22, 2010