

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY
EDUCATION

ADOPTED: February 24, 2009

REVISED:

135. COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION	
<p>1. Purpose and Goals</p> <p>SC 1512</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 4.29</p> <p>SC 1511 Title 22 Sec. 4.12(a)(6)</p>	<p>This Policy reflects the Board’s commitment to provide students from kindergarten through high school with sexuality health education that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is comprehensive; • is age appropriate; • is medically accurate; • emphasizes abstinence as the expected norm and the only protection that is 100% effective against unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV when transmitted sexually; and • does not exclude information required to provide instruction designed to promote a wholesome and comprehensive understanding of the emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibility necessary for successful relationships and family life. <p>The Board recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to family life and sexual health education that is consistently applied throughout the district and that will serve as a guide to local school administrators and teachers who deliver instruction or who select outside consultants to deliver sexual health instruction.</p>
<p>2. Parental / Guardian Consent</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 4.29</p>	<p>Prior to the commencement of instruction, the district shall publicize that detailed curriculum outlines and curricular materials used in conjunction with the instruction are available to parents and guardians during normal school hours or at teacher-parent conferences. Parents have the right to withdraw his/her child from sexuality education classes at any time with notice to the school. Curricular materials, if practical, shall be made available by the district for home instructional use by a parent or guardian if the student has been excused from the district’s HIV/AIDS instruction.</p>

<p>3. Definitions</p>	<p>Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Developmentally appropriate sexuality education, articulated kindergarten through twelfth grade, providing students with adequate and accurate information on human sexuality; preparing students to deal responsibly with social, physical, emotional and mental aspects of human sexuality. Curriculum will cover six major categories: Human Development, Healthy Relationships, Personal Skills, Sexual Behavior*, Sexual Health, Society and Culture. More specific content includes anatomy, human reproduction, decision making, body image, gender roles, attitudes, orientation and stereotypes, risk reducing behaviors and decision making, and pregnancy and STD prevention (both abstinence and contraception).</p> <p>Comprehensive Sexuality Education has the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches complete and accurate, developmentally, age and gender appropriate information; • Includes information in six major categories: Human Development, Healthy Relationships, Personal Skills, Sexual Behavior*, Sexual Health, Society and Culture; • Teaches that abstinence as the only 100% certain method of pregnancy and STD prevention; • Stresses the value of abstinence, while not ignoring students who have had or are having sex; • Explores risk and risk reduction behaviors along with responsible decision making, including how to avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use can affect one’s ability to make responsible decisions; • Provides accurate information about the health benefits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy and/or STDs, including HIV. (Does not include contraception distribution or demonstrations); • Uses materials and instruction that are research based and free of fear and shame based strategies; • Is taught by trained, qualified instructors; • Requires ongoing training and professional development opportunities for those responsible for teaching sexuality education; and
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<p>4. Use of Outside Consultants as Instructors Pol. 818 SC 111</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourages open communication between parents and teens on the issues addressed by comprehensive sexuality education. <p><i>*Sexual Behaviors will be discussed in the context of STDs and under no circumstances will students be taught how to engage in these behaviors. Behaviors will be discussed in terms of scientific facts and consequences only.</i></p> <p>Any school may retain the services of an outside consultant to supplement its comprehensive sexuality education program, consistent with state law and district policy for hiring independent contractors. However, any outside consultant must first be approved by the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD).</p> <p>If an outside provider is unable to offer services which align within the guidelines outlined in this policy, the consultant will not be permitted to provide services within Pittsburgh Public Schools.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1-111, 15-1511, 15-1512</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4, 4.11, 4.12, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.29</p> <p>Board Policy – 102, 105, 107, 818</p>
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