



Parents,

Please be advised the District must notify parents that a human sexuality and responsibility unit will be taught to your child. The unit is taught during the month of May for K-8th grades and during a specific unit in the high school health education course.

Summary of the Content

The District's sexuality education program has been established to provide information and skill development for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 so that they may reach their highest potential for physical, emotional, mental, and social health. The District's core values of high expectations, respect for the individual, resources to support student needs, and shared ownership and commitment, as specified in the District Improvement Plan, shall be reflected in the design and implementation of the sexuality education program.

Review of Curriculum

Prior to the implementation of the sexuality education program, the principal shall conduct at least one orientation session for parents and guardians. The orientation shall be scheduled at a convenient time and parents shall be provided reasonable written notice of the time and location of the orientation session.

The District shall make all curriculum materials used in human sexuality instruction available for reasonable public inspection (Education Code 28.004(j)) Parents shall have ample opportunity to preview all instructional materials, including any obtained from non-District sources and including all updates and modifications to the materials. Films, tapes, and other audio-visual materials shall be made accessible to parents following a written request to the principal.

A parent or guardian shall be permitted to observe any class session on sexuality education so long as he or she provides reasonable prior notice to the principal and teacher and the observation does not disrupt instruction.

The campus advisory council or campus committees composed of teachers, parents, staff, and secondary students may be involved in reviewing the sexuality education curriculum and planning the campus implementation of the program.

The school health advisory council (SHAC) shall review and make recommendations to the District on any changes to the current human sexuality program or any new program to be implemented. The SHAC shall review, on an annual basis, the health education curriculum, including human sexuality education.

Student Exemption of Unit

A student may be exempted from participation in specific lessons of the sexuality education program upon written request to the principal by the parent or guardian of the student. In granting the exemption, the District hopes that the parent will provide human sexuality education to his or her child. The District's curriculum remains available as a possible resource for any parent wanting to provide that instruction directly to his or her child in the home. Students who are exempted shall be provided alternative instruction and shall not be punished or embarrassed in any manner for nonparticipation. An Opt Out letter that allows students to be exempted from participation in the instruction of this unit will be sent 3 weeks prior to the planned instruction. A parent may opt out of one or all of the lessons. The Opt Out letter will include a brief description of each lesson objective.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Parents may attend SHAC meetings and speak to (including offering suggestions for the development of the curriculum) during Public Comments/Citizen's Communications portions of the meeting or by writing letters to the SHAC. Please visit the Physical Education and Health website at <https://www.austinisd.org/pe-health> regularly for updates on opportunities for your involvement concerning human sexuality and responsibility curriculum.

Please contact your principal if you have any questions.