

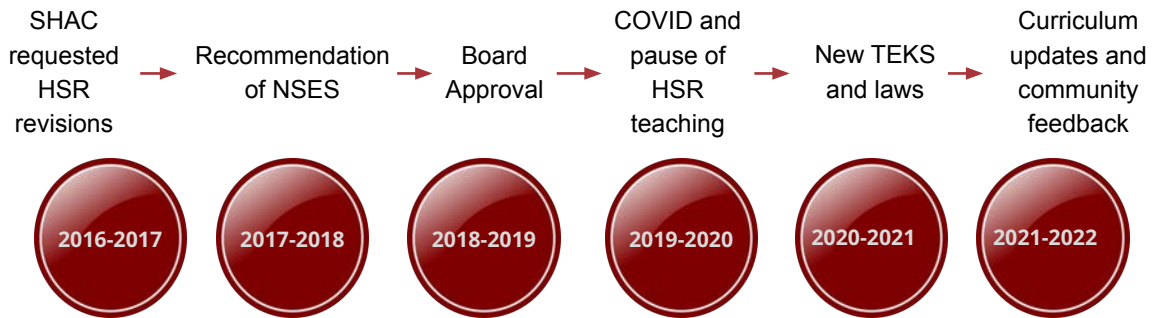


**AUSTIN**  
Independent School District



# Human Sexuality & Responsibility Curriculum Updates

# Background



## Human Sexuality and Responsibility Timeline

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- June 2016, SHAC asked for revisions of the past HSR curriculum. It had been over 10 years since it had been revised.
- April 2018, a District Review committee recommended to use the National Sex Education Standards (NSES)
- February 2019, the Board approved the National Sex Education Standards Scope and Sequence, which was also recommended by SHAC
- October 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the revised 3rd-8th grade HSR lessons
- March 2020, Covid began, AISD went to virtual learning.
- April/May 2020, the district decided not to teach HSR lessons online
- August 2020 - May 2021 AISD remained in a virtual learning setting
  - HSR was moved to begin teaching during the months of November and December due to STAAR being scheduled so late in May.
  - Again, the district felt postponing most HSR lessons

- would be for the best interest of our students and staff.
- High School students were given an opportunity to learn this unit asynchronously with additional safety boundaries put in place.
- December 2020 - State Board of Educators approved the revised Health TEKS, which included a new Reproductive and Sexual Health strand of content.
- May- July 2021, the Texas Legislature passed HB1525, making all human sexuality lessons opt-in, and SB9, which required the same approval and opt-in processes to be used for any lessons related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking.
- August 2021, AISD postponed the teaching of HSR for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade due to new legislation requirements and new Health TEKS.
- September 2021 - April 2022, the AISD Health and PE department collaborated with the Social and Emotional Learning department and School Counseling to determine who will teach the HB1525 and SB9 topics and revised all HSR lessons
- April 18 - May 6, AISD collected family feedback regarding the HSR lessons through a survey and two additional SHAC Special Feedback meetings
- June 1, 2022, SHAC made a formal recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve all HSR lessons

# New Requirements

- HB 1525
  - Board resolution for SHAC to address HSR
  - SHAC Open Meetings Act
  - Opt-In
- SB 9
  - Same process as HSR for “any content related to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking.”
- New Health TEKS
  - First time updated in over 20 years!
  - Added Reproductive and Sexual Health content strand

## **HB 1525 Summary**

### SHAC

1. Must conduct the Open Meetings Act\*(we have been doing this)
2. An Audio or Video Recording must take place and be posted on the AISD SHAC website
3. SHAC must conduct two meetings for public comment based on Board Resolution specifically for HSR

### HSR & Health CURRICULUM

1. Post HSR materials on public domain\* (we have been doing this)
2. Begin using the Opt-In/Permission model
3. Allow Parent/Family to purchase any curriculum that AISD uses
4. Have the Board vote on a resolution to instigate curriculum changes

## **SB 9**

5. This bill is basically the same as HB 1525 for topics such as prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, sex trafficking
6. Post HSR materials on public domain\* (we have been doing this)
7. Begin using the Opt-In/Permission model
8. Allow Parent/Family to purchase any curriculum that AISD uses
9. Have the Board vote on a resolution to instigate curriculum changes

## **New Health TEKS**

- New TEKS were revised and adopted by the State Board of Education to implement in 2022-2023
- This is the first time since 1998 since the TEKS have been updated
- School districts also adopted new textbook materials to support health education
- AISD is adopting textbooks that do not cover HSR and SB9 topics since the Health Ed Department is writing their own
- The new TEKS also allowed some topics that were currently covered in HSR units to be move into the Health Education lessons.
  - Some content that was previously considered HSR, because of the district's use of the National Sex Education standards, is now covered in the health TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and will be moved to the general health lessons taught at each grade level.

*Examples of this content include:*

- how friends may influence behavior (kinder),
- how to get help from a teacher, parent, or other trusted adult when made to feel bullied or uncomfortable (grade 1), and
- demonstrating respectful ways to communicate with family members and peers (grade 2)
- All content that is listed under the Reproductive and Sexual Health strand of the new health TEKS, starting with Grade 4, will be covered under HSR and will be taught only to those students who have parent/gaurdian permission.
- Any content in the District's health curriculum related to reproductive and sexual health that is either not covered in the TEKS or is addressed at a different grade level than the TEKS recommends will also be subject to the parent/guardian permissions process.

*Examples of this include:*

- *Board-approved lessons on puberty starting in grade 3*
- *Board-approved lessons related to consent starting in grade 7*

# HSR Overview

- Classroom rules/expectations reinforced at the beginning of each lesson
- Clear alignment to AISD EHAA policy and the Health TEKS, with supplemental content from the National Sex Education Standards
- Abstinence is stated as the 100% most effective way to prevent pregnancy and STIs at age appropriate and relevant lessons
- Lesson always focuses on identifying their trusted adult
- Scripted teacher language and best practice suggestions
- Inclusive language used throughout, with accommodations available as needed
- Age-appropriate activities

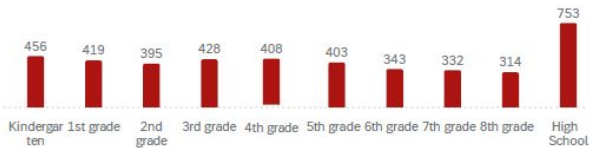
# HSR Survey: April 18 - May 6, 2022

Unique respondent count (# of people who responded to the survey)

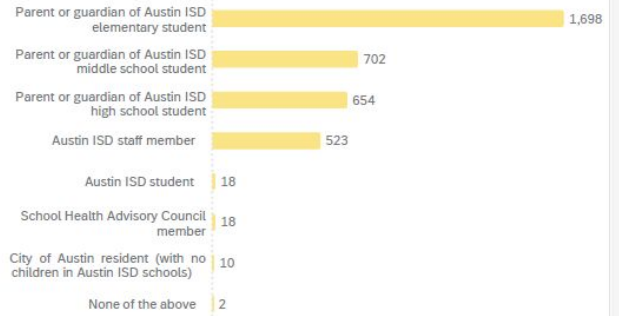


2,910

Total number of responses about each grade level 4,251



What is your role relative to Austin ISD? (select all that apply)



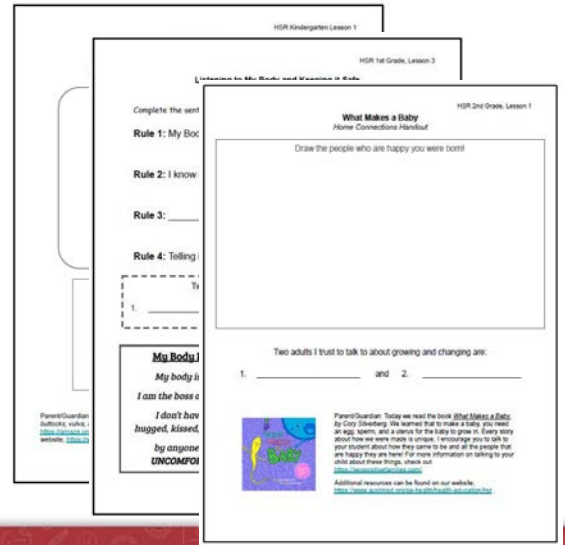
# Kindergarten - Grade 2 HSR Overview

Lessons focus on:

- Medically accurate names of body parts
- Keeping their body safe
- Talking to trusted adults

Students learn about:

- Listening to their own body
- Listening to each other
- Personal boundaries
- Reproduction



Students in primary grades K-2 are full of wonders and questions - about their bodies, about other people's bodies, and about how the world around them works. The Human Sexuality and Responsibility lessons for this grade band focus on learning the **names of body parts** and **keeping their body safe**. Students will learn about **listening to their own bodies**, **listening to each other**, **personal boundaries**, and **the importance of talking to their parent(s)/guardian(s) or another trusted adult**. Students will also explore the concept of **reproduction and a simple explanation of what makes a baby**. Every lesson will include a **Home Connections Handout** for students to bring home that will include discussion questions and resources for more information.



# K-2 Survey Results

# Responses K: 456 G1:419 G2: 395

“Would you allow a child in your care to participate in this lesson?”

## Kindergarten

1. My Body



2. Listening to My Body

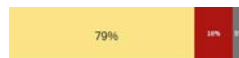


3. Keeping My Body Safe



## 1st Grade

1. Living Things & Reproduction



2. My Body



3. Listening to My Body & Keeping It Safe



## 2nd Grade

1. What Makes a Baby



2. My Body



3. Keeping My Body Safe



Yes No Undecided

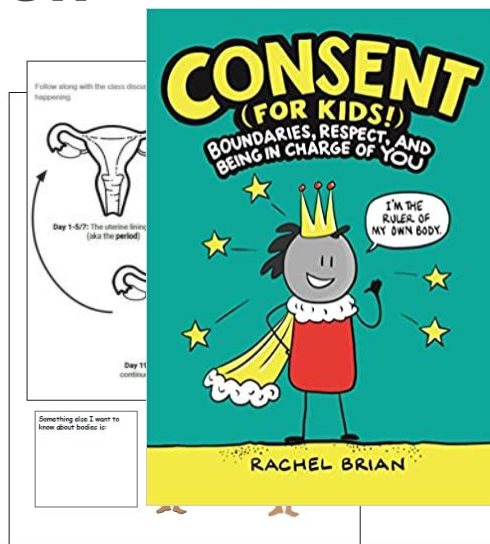
# Grade 3-5 HSR Overview

Lessons focus on:

- The reproductive system parts and functions
- Physical, social, and emotional changes in puberty
- Boundaries and personal safety

Starting in Grade 5:

- Healthy relationships and crushes
- Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault
- Sex trafficking



During these intermediate grades, students will **learn about their changing bodies**. Puberty is the main focus of the lessons in grades 3 through 5. Students learn the **correct names for the reproductive system parts and functions**, the **physical, social, and emotional changes that can occur during the puberty journey**, and **how to manage or cope with those changes**. In addition to anatomy and puberty, students will learn about boundaries and personal safety. At the 5th grade level, students will also learn about healthy dating/romantic relationships, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and assault, and sex trafficking. Every lesson is concluded with a Home Connections Worksheet that students can bring home to complete and discuss with their parent(s)/guardian(s) or another trusted adult. From coloring pages to card sorting activities, videos and more, all elementary lessons are designed to encourage discussion and questions so that students become comfortable with what to expect as their bodies and brains transition from child to adolescent to adult.



# 3-5 Survey Results

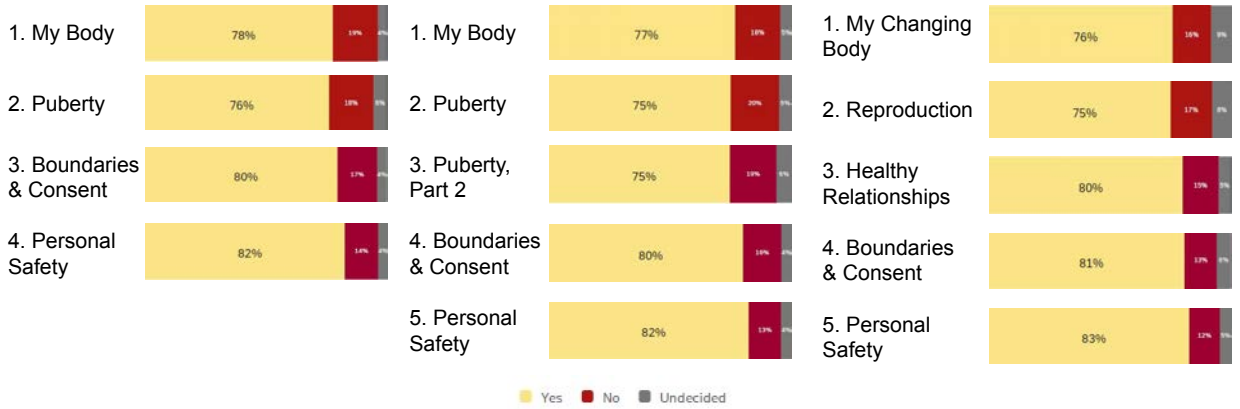
# Responses G3: 428 G4: 408 G5: 403

“Would you allow a child in your care to participate in this lesson?”

## 3rd Grade

## 4th Grade

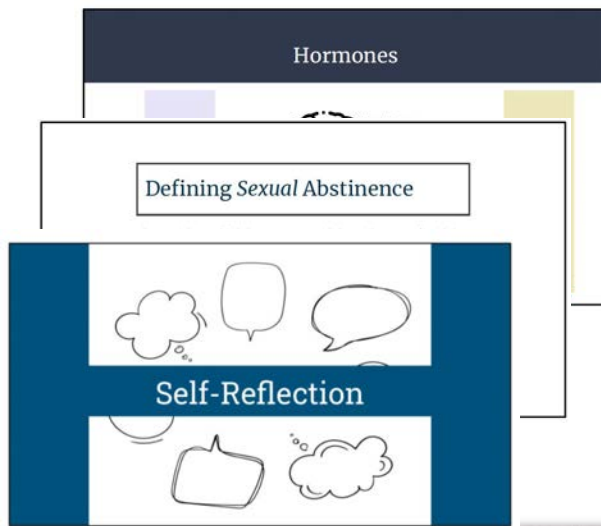
## 5th Grade



# Grade 6-8 HSR Overview

Lessons focus on:

- Dating and romantic relationships
- Communication and boundaries
- The developing adolescent brain
- Digital communication and safety
- Abstinence and sexual risk reduction



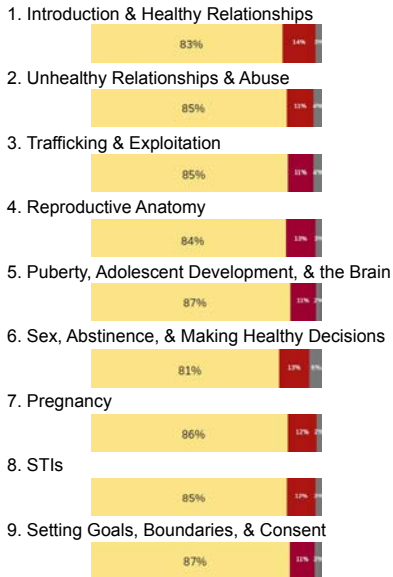
Middle school is a time when young people are growing and changing at a rapid pace. The middle school HSR lessons have been designed to reflect these changes. Each grade level has 9 lessons covering topics related to dating/romantic relationships, abuse and exploitation, communication, boundaries, anatomy and adolescent development, the consequences of sexual activity and abstinence, and digital communication and safety. While students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in small and large group discussions during class, they are also encouraged to talk to their parent(s)/guardian(s) or other trusted adults about their own beliefs and values related to human sexuality and reproductive health.

# 6-8 Survey Results # Responses G6: 343 G7: 332 G8: 314

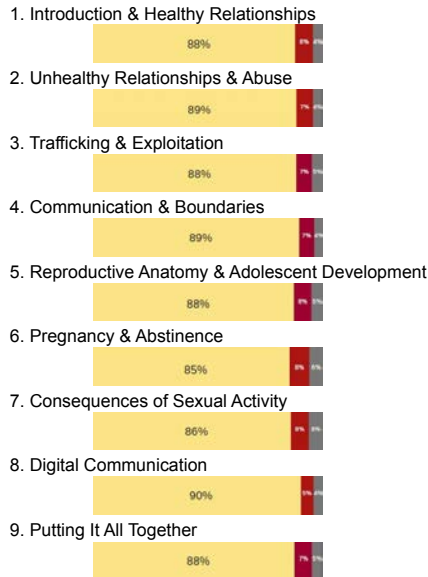
Yes No Undecided

"Would you allow a child in your care to participate in this lesson?"

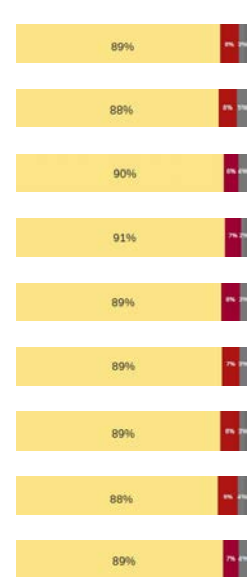
## 6th Grade



## 7th Grade



## 8th Grade



# High School HSR Overview

Lessons focus on Health Skills

- Self Awareness
- Accessing Information
- Interpersonal Communication
- Goal-Setting
- Making Decisions
- Analyzing Influences
- Health Advocacy



Because the high school Human Sexuality and Responsibility lessons are part of the health class, these 9 lessons will continue to build on the **health skills** that students are learning throughout the semester. Students will practice skills like interpersonal communication, analyzing influences, and accessing resources while learning about dating/romantic relationships, reproductive anatomy, abstinence, pregnancy and parenting, sexually transmitted infections, and online safety. While students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in small and large group discussions during class, they are also encouraged to talk to their parent(s)/guardian(s) or other trusted adults about their own beliefs and values related to human sexuality and reproductive health.

# High School Survey Results

# Responses 753

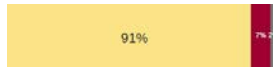
Yes No Undecided

“Would you allow a child in your care to participate in this lesson?”

1. Introducing Sexual Health



4. Reproductive Anatomy & Pregnancy



7. Staying Safe Part 1: Contraception



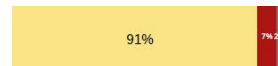
2. Dating/Romantic Relationships



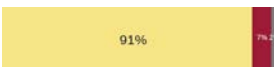
5. Parenting & Paternity



8. Staying Safe Part 2: Sexually Transmitted Infections



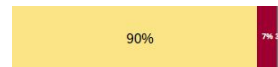
3. Sex Trafficking & Online Safety



6. Boundaries & Abstinence



9. Consent & Refusal Skills





# Top HSR Survey Comments

- Gender neutral language
  - “Assigned at birth”
  - “People with a penis/vulva”
  - Teacher notes about inclusive language
- Anatomically correct language
  - Age-appropriate and child abuse protection at ALL ages
  - Vulva vs. vagina
- Confusion about NSES language
  - Hormone blockers
  - Masturbation

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- Gender neutral language
  - In an effort to be more inclusive of all bodies, genders and identities, this curriculum has been written using mostly gender neutral language. That means that sometimes language such as “gender assigned at birth” is used, while other times bodies are described as “a person with a penis” or “a person with a vulva.” This not only makes it more medically accurate, it also includes our transgender, non-binary, and intersex students without excluding cisgender students.
  - There are notes for teachers about this inclusive language that isn’t seen by the students and teachers will be provided training and coaching support on how to teach this in an inclusive way. An example of a teacher note about this: “In this lesson, you will notice that body parts and processes are not labelled as male or female. While it is ok to use the terms boy/girl/male/female, it is important not to assume that all boys or girls have certain anatomy. This approach is more inclusive of intersex and gender diverse people.”
- Anatomically correct language
  - Though not the majority, as you saw in the survey results, some families are concerned that using the anatomically correct names of the reproductive body parts is not age-appropriate. It is advised by all major medical associations and by child abuse prevention experts alike to use the correct terms for ALL body parts from birth. There is nothing dirty/shameful/wrong about the words but when we don’t use them, we create a culture of privacy or secrecy around bodies and this is used by

- perpetrators of violence to manipulate and silence their victims.
- This includes using the word “vulva” instead of “vagina”. A vagina is the tube on the inside of a person’s body that connects the outside of the body to the cervix and uterus. The outside parts are NOT the vagina. This may be the more commonly used term, but it is medically/factually incorrect. We do a disservice to our young people and the community at large if we knowingly teach incorrect words because they seem more palatable to the public at this time.
- Confusion about the language of the national sex education standards (NSES)
  - The updated curriculum is primarily based on the updated TEKS. However, there is some content that is considered best practices in sex education that were left out of the TEKS. In these instances, we are using the NSES to fill in the gaps. That means that most lessons will have both TEKS and NSES standards listed. Some of the NSES that are listed also include content that is NOT included in the lesson.
    - Example 1: PD.5.CC.4: Describe the role hormones play in the physical, social, cognitive, and emotional changes during adolescence **and** the potential role of hormone blockers on young people who identify as transgender
      - Because the puberty lessons in grades 4 and 5 DO describe the role hormones play in the physical, social, cognitive, and emotional changes, the first part of the standard applies. The lesson does not, however, address hormone blockers for transgender students in ANY way.
    - Example 2: PD.5.CC.3: Explain common human sexual development and the role of hormones (e.g., romantic and sexual feelings, masturbation, mood swings, timing of pubertal onset)
      - Again, common human sexual development and the role of hormones is explained. The examples they provide include masturbation but the curriculum doesn’t address masturbation at all.

Other age-appropriateness concerns:

- Newly part of the TEKS:
  - Sexual abuse and sex trafficking in 5th grade
  - Fetal development in 5th grade
- Separate genders in elementary

## Survey Comment about Inclusive Language



*“As the parent of a transgender little girl, I VERY MUCH appreciate you including her body in these lessons. Not all little girls have a vulva and also not everyone that as a vulva has a uterus (I have intersex friends with a vulva but no uterus). It's so important to make sure all children can see themselves reflected in these lessons. Thank you!!”*

*-AISD Parent of Second Grader*



## Additional Decisions Made and Next Steps

- Opt-In Process Streamlined by District
- Digital version of Permission Letter
- Allow opt-in individual lessons
- ★ Board information meeting June 9
- ★ Board to vote June 23

# Questions

