

Sexual Health Education

The Tonasket Board of Directors has determined that all students be provided instruction in comprehensive sexual health education, consistent with state law.

The Tonasket School Board of Directors recognizes parents as the best and most appropriate teachers regarding the important and values-based conversations surrounding human sexuality.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, it is important that staff involved in Sexual Health Education follow Policy 2331 which states the following:

“The district will offer courses of study which will afford learning experiences appropriate to the level of student understanding. The instructional program will respect the right of students to face issues, to have free access to information, to study under teachers in situations free from prejudice and to form, hold, and express their own opinions without personal prejudice or discrimination. The district encourages staff members to provide for the free and orderly flow and examination of ideas so that students may gain the skills to gather and arrange facts, discriminate between facts and opinion, discuss differing viewpoints, analyze problems and draw their own tentative conclusions.”

Furthermore, the First Amendment and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protect individuals (staff and students) from religious harassment and discrimination.

When sexual health education is provided, students will be grouped in a manner that maximizes the chance for students to engage in age appropriate discussions.

In grades K-3 instruction will be social and emotional learning that is consistent with the social and emotional standards and benchmarks adopted by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Comprehensive sexual health education instruction ~~offered~~ provided by the district to students in grades 4-12 will be medically and scientifically accurate, age appropriate, and inclusive of students regardless of their protected class status under Chapter 49.60 RCW. Abstinence will not be taught to the exclusion of other instruction on contraceptives and disease prevention. The district’s comprehensive sexual health education program will be consistent with the *Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention* developed by the Department of Health and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Health Education K-12 Learning Standards adopted by OSPI, and other provisions of RCW 28A.300.475.

Instructional materials will be chosen from a list provided by OSPI or will be identified or developed by the district and reviewed using comprehensive sexual health education curriculum analysis tools provided by OSPI.

The superintendent will provide parents/guardians an opportunity to review the materials to be used, including or providing electronic access, will provide information on excluding their child from sexual health education instruction, and will grant all such requests. Access to these materials will be communicated and provided at least one month prior to the classroom instruction.

The superintendent or their designee will annually identify to OSPI any curricula used to provide comprehensive sexual health education and how the provided classroom instruction aligns with legislative requirements.

Cross References: 2126 - HIV-AIDS Prevention Education
2020 - Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

Legal References: RCW 28A.300.475 Comprehensive sexual health education
RCW 28A.600.480(2) Reporting of harassment, intimidation, or bullying--
Retaliation prohibited — Immunity
WAC 392-410-140 Sexual health education — Definition — Optional
course or subject matter — Excusal of students

Management Resources: 2021 – February Issue
2009 - February Issue
Policy News, August 2007 Sex Education Curriculum and Instruction

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Tonasket School District
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