

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual

Title: FAMILY LIFE AND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Section: 704.6

Board Report: 08-0827-PO4

Date Adopted: August 27, 2008

Policy:

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board of Education for the City of Chicago (the "Board") amend Board Report 06-0426-PO4 the Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Policy ("Policy").

POLICY TEXT:

I. Purpose and Goals

Consistent with the Federal and State laws enacted to address the need for students to receive comprehensive health education, this Policy is intended to ensure that the system offers students a comprehensive sexual health education. The Policy reflects the Board's commitment to provide students from kindergarten through high school with family life and sexual health education that:

- 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
- 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 aspects of family life

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.

II. Definitions

"Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education" is an educational program or course that provides age appropriate and medically accurate information concerning the emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibility aspects of family life. The program or course includes, but is not limited to such topics as sexual abstinence until marriage, informed decision-making, and the prevention and control of infection and disease. In grades 5 through 12, the program or course shall include instruction on the prevention of pregnancy through the use of medically recommended contraceptives, and on transmission and the prevention of most sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, through the use of medically recommended protective/barrier methods. It shall also include instruction on the potential emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual intercourse outside of marriage and the consequences of unintended adolescent pregnancy, financial responsibility owed to children born in and out of wedlock, laws relating to sexual relations with children under the age of 18, appropriate action in response to sexual harassment or assault, responsible parenting and respect for all persons.

III. Application of Policy

All CPS schools shall provide age appropriate and medically accurate Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education as part of its courses or programs. Local schools retain the discretion to meet this requirement using courses and programs that are best suited to meet the needs of their students, so long as the courses and programs comply with the Comprehensive Health Education Program Act, 105

ILCS 110/3, Illinois School Code provisions 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1, 5/27-9.2 and any applicable Board policies and guidelines. Each course provided in accordance with this policy to 5th grade students shall include a minimum of 675 instructional minutes per academic year (10 lessons total). For all other grade levels, each course provided in accordance with this policy shall satisfy the minimum instructional minutes requirements set out in the Family Life Guidelines.

No student who provides a timely written objection from his or her parents or guardians shall be required to participate in any CPS family life and comprehensive sexual health education program or course and no student shall be suspended or expelled for refusal to participate in any such program or course. Any student who does not provide a written objection to participation in a CPS family life and comprehensive sexual health program or course shall be required to participate.

IV. Delivery of Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

Any family life and comprehensive sexual health education program or course should be based on the K-12 and special education resource units identified by the Chicago Public Schools. Educators shall consult the CPS Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Guidelines (Family Life Guidelines), which shall be promulgated by the Chief Executive Officer, for detailed information regarding the delivery of comprehensive sexual health instruction.

At a minimum, the family life and comprehensive sexual health education classes and assessments shall address the Illinois Learning Standards and comply with the Family Life Guidelines.

A. Mandatory Training for Sexual Health Instructors

Any teacher or other staff member who serves as a family life and comprehensive sexual health instructor must participate in CPS training on Family Life and AIDS education prior to teaching the course or program. All principals with at least one grade 5 classroom shall designate a minimum of one teacher to participate in CPS training on Family Life and AIDS education. The training shall include information regarding the content of the Family Life and AIDS Education programs as well as information on the developmental differences between male and female students, reporting requirements related to sexual harassment, sexual abuse or sexual assault and how to approach potentially sensitive topics with students and how to respond to student questions or requests for advice regarding comprehensive sexual health. Other staff members who work with students shall be encouraged to participate in the training.

B. Use of Outside Consultants as Instructors

Any school may retain the services of an outside consultant to supplement its family life and comprehensive sexual health education program or courses. However, any outside consultant must first be approved by the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Curriculum Committee. The Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Curriculum Committee shall include members of the HIV Materials Review Committee that is mandated as part of a CPS program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and may include but is not limited to student representatives, representatives from the Office of High School Programs, the Office of Instruction and School Management, the Office of Math and Science and the Office of Specialized Services.

If an outside consultant is unable to provide a Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education course or program that includes all components as described in this policy and detailed in the Family Life and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Guidelines, the school must ensure that instruction is supplemented so as to comply with requirements of this policy and the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 110/3, 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 and 105 ILCS 5/27-9.2.

Amends/Rescinds: Amends 06-0426-PO4
Cross References: 96-0124-ED14; 86-0430-ED2; 79-195-7; 67-810-4; 67-810-3; 75-13-7;
Legal References: Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 110/3, 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1 and 105 ILCS 5/27-9.2.