

Wyoming Public Schools

Definition of Human Sexuality Education

May 2005

The Wyoming Public Schools Board of Education and staff support sexuality education as a lifelong process of students acquiring accurate information and forming attitudes and beliefs about self identity and relationships. It encompasses personal hygiene, sexual development, reproductive health, responsible interpersonal relationships, and dangerous communicable diseases. The educational program emphasizes the appropriate developmental level of teaching of topics and abstinence as the most responsible method for preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Human Sexuality Education includes the concepts of self-esteem, moral decision making, family life, loving, caring, sharing, communication and relationships. Our view is that sexuality is an integral part of the total personality. In the Wyoming Public Schools, Human Sexuality Education is the preparation for personal relationships between the sexes by providing appropriate educational opportunities designed to help individuals develop understanding, acceptance, respect and trust for themselves and others. It includes the knowledge of physical, emotional and social growth and maturation, an understanding of the society, how they relate and react to supplement each other, the responsibilities of each toward the other throughout life and the development of responsible use of human sexuality as a positive and creative force.

Taken from Section 1501 of the School Code of 1976 (Public Act of 1976)

Philosophy

The Wyoming Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of a program of instruction in reproductive health, family planning including birth control and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's). Better understanding and acceptance of one's individual sexuality, interpersonal relationships, family roles and personal responsibility are important reasons for carrying out programs of instruction in this area. This is particularly true in the light of parental and teacher concerns and statistics related to child sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancies. The school is in a unique position in the community to offer a carefully planned sequential program of instruction for children and youth as part of a comprehensive school health education curriculum. **A PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY WITHIN THE SCHOOLS SHOULD SUPPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE TEACHING OF THE PARENTS.** Responsible personal decision making is the overall goal of a program of instruction in human sexuality.

Responsibilities for Teachers of Human Sexuality

(Adapted from the Holland Public Schools Health Education Reproductive Health Curriculum Guide.)

1. Teachers of Human Sexuality at the elementary level shall be certified by successfully completing at least a 12-hour workshop in Human Sexuality. At the secondary level, the teachers shall hold a degree in health or a related subject area.
2. All material and activities used in the classroom or sent home (films, books, speakers, etc.) must be approved by the Human Sexuality Education Committee before they are used in the classroom. A teacher is responsible for whatever a guest speaker says or does in his/her classroom, so be sure to talk with the speaker about the presentation beforehand (see speaker guidelines).
3. Teacher reference materials do not have to be approved by the Human Sexuality Education Committee and are for a teacher's personal use. These materials should not be used directly with students. For example, unapproved diagrams from teacher resource books should not be used with students.
4. A procedure for instructional material reviews and classroom visitation requests by parents or other community members should be provided and arranged with the principal before the course begins.
5. Each person has a right to privacy and the teacher must guard against invading students' privacy rights. Human Sexuality Education Committee and individual parent approval of questionnaires must be obtained before classroom or student use.
6. This is a subject where each of us has our biases and values. Teachers must remain neutral in their statements and instruction. Students have the right to keep any of their opinions private if they so desire.
7. Street language and sexual jokes are always inappropriate. Be aware of the district's Sexual Harassment Policy and enforce when necessary.
8. The atmosphere in the classroom is a vitally important issue. It must contain a spirit of openness, respect and sensitivity while allowing students the freedom to ask questions anonymously, but it is not always necessary to answer questions based on a staff member being uncomfortable or the question being outside the realm of the district guidelines.
9. If an upset parent or community member calls you, listen and document their complaints/questions and then refer them to the principal for follow up.

Goals (focus for 2005-06 school year)

Wyoming Public School's Human Sexuality Education Curriculum is designed to:

1. Teach and support abstinence as the most responsible method for preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
2. Strengthen wholesome family relationships through understanding the family as the basic unit of society.
3. Compliment the parental and home training.
4. Assist parents to increase their own knowledge and understanding of human sexuality so they may guide their children's development more effectively.
5. Add emphasis to the meaning, significance and responsibilities of love, marriage, parenthood and family life.
6. Affirm the rights of the parents to become involved in the education of their children or to choose to not have their child participate.
7. Encourage open dialogue between home, school and community with regard to issues related to the reproductive health curriculum, including use of appropriate materials, topics, and instruction.
8. Provide an atmosphere where dignified discussion regarding human sexuality can take place, discussions which recognize and respect a variety of points of view developing from religious and home training.
9. Increase the knowledge of anatomy and physiology and explain the basis for feelings that accompany growing up through childhood and adolescence.
10. Help students grow toward management of emotions leading to responsible behavior.
11. Help enhance the self-esteem, self-respect and self-worth of the students in all classes.
12. Give students a sound basis upon which to assess and cope with the sexual stimuli offered by current magazines, books, television, movies, advertising and the internet.
13. Teach students the vocabulary needed for open communication with parents, religious advisors, counselors and adults, concerning human sexual behavior, so they may seek further information from reliable sources.
14. Provide sufficient knowledge and understanding to help young people make sound, informed decisions in sexual matters, based on law and accurate information, rather than myths, in the following areas: human anatomy and physiology, growth and development, reproductive health,

sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), sexual abuse, psychological and emotional patterns, and social and family roles.

15. Help guide development of respect and responsibility for life and reproduction of life, teaching that human sexuality is an integral part of the whole person, and emphasizing its importance in leading toward a purposeful adult life.

Guidelines for Using Guest Speakers in the Classroom

All material and activities used (films, books, speakers, etc.) must be approved by the Wyoming Public School's District Human Sexuality Advisory Committee before they are used in the classroom. A teacher is responsible for whatever a guest speaker says or does in his/her classroom. Speakers are to be informed of the district presentation guidelines beforehand.

1. The teacher is to receive approval from the building principal before confirming arrangements with an outside speaker. Topics should be confined to those that are specifically a part of Wyoming Public School's approved Human Sexuality Program.
2. Abortion and alternative life style (homosexuality) are not to be discussed by outside speakers.
3. Use of films, AV materials, books and pamphlets by the guest speaker which are not approved by the District Human Sexuality Committee is not acceptable. Speaker will provide an outline of their talk prior to speaking.
4.
 - a) The specific topic you expect the guest to cover.
 - b) The date, day, time, place, and makeup of students of the class.
 - c) The classroom teacher needs to provide a summary of what has been covered in the class up to the time the guest will be speaking to the class.
 - d) The speaker will be provided the District Presentation Guidelines
5. The guest speaker is to report to the main office when coming into the school.
6. The Director of Instruction should be consulted or notified when questions regarding speaker's appropriateness or inappropriateness are in question.
7. Approval of speakers should be made at least one month before date of scheduled speaker.

Agencies that may be used (but not limited to) as guest speakers:

- Health Department, Community Mental Health, Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Red Cross, RAVE, Pregnancy Resource Center
- Spectrum, St. Mary's, Metro Hospitals

Wyoming Public School's Request for Guest Speaker

Must be completed at least one month in advance for approval.

Teacher responsible _____

Class/Grade _____

Name of Speaker _____

Date(s) Scheduled _____

Period(s) _____

Topics _____

Credentials of Speaker _____

Speaker Representing Group or Instruction: _____

Approved

(If questions arise please contact the Director of
Instruction for clarification of guidelines and approval.)

Disapproved and Justification:

Comments: _____

Principal Signature _____ Date _____