

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
September 27, 2016

SUBJECT:

Changes to Policy IHAM Health Education – Final Reading

BACKGROUND:

The Comprehensive Health Education Act of 1988 (CHEA) and Aiken County School Board Policy IHAM require that pregnancy prevention be taught as part of a comprehensive health education program. Clear requirements exist based on grade level, make up of classes, length of instruction, and the approval of instructional materials.

Section 59-32-20(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws was amended June 2014 (H.4061, Act 293) to read that the State Board of Education through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) shall support districts in providing age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

While CHEA allows for the explanation of contraception in middle school, Policy IHAM does not. This revision brings the policy in line with CHEA.

The State Department of Education has developed age-appropriate modules for providing instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed changes on final reading

ATTACHMENT:

Policy IHAM Health Education

PREPARED BY:

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HEALTH EDUCATION

Code **IHAM** Issued **1/02**

Purpose: To establish the board's adherence to state laws and regulations regarding health education.

The school district is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that is an integral part of each student's general education.

The district will fulfill its responsibility for meeting the health needs of children and youth through a comprehensive program of health education in grades kindergarten through 12. Comprehensive health education includes instruction that maintains, reinforces or enhances the health, health-related skills and health attitudes and practices of children and youth that are conducive to their good health. Instruction will promote skills, practices and attitudes that promote wellness, health maintenance and disease prevention. Instruction also will include reproductive health education, pregnancy prevention education and family life education, in accordance with state law.

Comprehensive health education at all levels should encourage the development of positive self-concept, responsible personal values, responsible decision-making skills, responsible behavior and strong family relations among students and their families.

Reproductive health education means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. Abstinence and the risks associated with sexual activity outside marriage must be strongly emphasized.

Reproductive health education information for grade four girls and grade five girls and boys will be presented in gender separated classes.

Sexually transmitted diseases are to be excluded from instruction on the prevention and control of diseases and disorders in grades kindergarten through five. Sexually transmitted diseases will be included as a part of instruction in grades six through 12.

Family life education means instruction intended to do the following.

- Develop an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic and psychological aspects of close personal relationships, and an understanding of the physiological and cultural foundations of human development.
- Provide instruction that will support the development of responsible personal values and behavior and aid in establishing a strong family life for themselves in the future and emphasize the responsibilities of marriage.
- Provide instruction as to the laws of this state relating to the sexual conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct.

C-3 Attachment

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Pregnancy prevention education means instruction intended to do the following.

- Stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage.
- Help students develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and abstain from sexual activity.
- Explain methods of contraception and the risks and benefits of each method. Abortion must not be included as a method of birth control. Instruction explaining the methods of contraception must not be included in any education program for grades kindergarten through seventh. Contraceptive information must be given in the context of future family planning.

Instruction in pregnancy prevention education must be presented separately to male and female students.

At least one time during the four years of grades nine through 12, each student will receive instruction in comprehensive health education, including at least 750 minutes of reproductive health education and pregnancy prevention education.

The program of instruction may not include a discussion of alternate sexual life-styles from heterosexual relationships except in the context of instruction concerning sexually transmitted diseases.

In grades nine through 12, students must also be given appropriate instruction that adoption is a positive alternative.

No contraceptive device or contraceptive medication may be distributed in or on the school grounds of any public elementary or secondary schools.

Schools may not offer programs, instruction or activities including abortion counseling, information about abortion services or assist in obtaining abortion materials. No abortion information may be distributed in schools. School authorities are not prevented from referring students to a physician for medical reasons after making reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents/legal guardians or the appropriate court, if applicable.

Films, pictures or diagrams in any comprehensive health education program in the schools must be designed solely for the purpose of explaining bodily functions or the human reproduction process and may not include actual or simulated portrayals of sexual activities or sexual intercourse.

The administration will develop a method whereby principals notify parents of students in the relevant grades of the content of the instructional materials concerning reproductive health, family life, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy prevention. The notice will inform parents of their option to exempt their child from this instruction.

Teachers who provide instruction in family life and sexuality education will have professional preparation in the subject area, both at the pre-service and in-service level.

Teachers who provide instruction in accordance with the Comprehensive Health Education Act of South Carolina and who use the board-approved curriculum will be deemed to be in compliance with this policy and with the provisions of law.

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Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco

All schools in the district will teach the nature of alcohol and narcotics and their effects upon the human system. Schools should help students develop an awareness of the consequences of the use and abuse of alcoholic drinks and drugs. Instruction will emphasize problems related to their use, pharmacological aspects, physiological effects and the impact upon the total community. Schools will present drug education as thoroughly, and in the same manner, if practicable, as all other required subjects.

HIV/AIDS Education

The district will teach students about the life-threatening dangers of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and its prevention. The district will develop an AIDS prevention education program in consultation with teachers, administrators, parents and other community members including, but not limited to, persons from medical, public health and mental health organizations and agencies. The curriculum for AIDS prevention education will be designed to teach students which behaviors place a person dangerously at risk of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and methods to avoid such risk including the following.

- the dangers of drug abuse, especially involving the use of hypodermic needles
- the dangers of sexual intercourse

The program of AIDS prevention education will stress the life-threatening dangers of contracting AIDS and will stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain means for the prevention of the spread or contraction of the AIDS virus through sexual contact.

Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness

The district will provide age appropriate instruction annually using materials provided by the South Carolina Department of Education in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Adopted 11/19/71; Revised 8/14/73, 12/14/82, 4/25/89, 1/8/02

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Sections 59-20-20, 59-20-30, 59-20-40 - Instruction required regarding the effects of alcohol and narcotics.
2. Section 59-32-10 *et seq.* - Comprehensive Health Education Act.
3. Section 59-32-20(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws as amended June 2014 (Act 293)

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R-43-231, 43-232, 43-234 - Basic program.