

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

The Board of Education recognizes that Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pose a public health crisis. At the present time, society's most effective weapon against this deadly disease is public education.

The number of AIDS cases steadily is increasing. In the course of living their daily lives, students will come in contact with people who are both HIV infected (asymptomatic) and at the later stages of AIDS. Therefore the district's health education program shall include factual information regarding HIV infection and how the virus is transmitted. Students shall be told what voluntary behaviors put them at risk of infection and also shall be motivated to prevent infection by making wise decisions in their daily lives.

The Board believes that HIV/AIDS instruction is most effective when integrated into a comprehensive health education program. Instruction shall be developmentally appropriate to the grade level of the students and shall occur in a systematic manner. The Board particularly desires that students receive proper education about HIV before they reach the age when they may adopt behaviors which put them at risk of contracting the disease.

In order for education about HIV to be most effective, the superintendent or designee shall ensure that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques. Other staff members not involved in direct instruction but who have contact with students shall receive basic information about HIV/AIDS and instruction in the use of universal precautions when dealing with body fluids.

School faculty, parents, community members including physicians, and students as appropriate shall be involved in the development of HIV education. In accordance with Board policy, parents/guardians shall have an opportunity to review the HIV education program before it is presented to students.

Parents/guardians of all students shall be notified when HIV/AIDS instruction is scheduled so they may request that their child be exempt on the grounds that it is contrary to their religious beliefs.

Adopted March 17, 2005

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-25-101 *et seq.* (Comprehensive Health Education Act)

CROSS REFS.: EBBA, Prevention of Disease/Infection Transmission
IHAM, Health Education

NOTE: Although Colorado law specifies a religious exemption, school boards may include additional reasons as a matter of policy. Many boards include "other personal reasons" in their exemption language. Under most circumstances, students should not be allowed to exempt out of an entire program, but should only be allowed to exempt out of the portion of the program which is objectionable.

NOTE: The Comprehensive Health Education Act of 1990 was amended with SB186 in 2000. Specifically, C.R.S. 22-25-104(6) was amended to read:

Any curriculum and materials developed and used in teaching sexuality and human reproduction shall include values and responsibility and shall give primary emphasis to abstinence by school-aged children. School officials shall receive prior written approval from a parent or guardian before his or her child may participate in any program discussing or teaching sexuality and human reproduction. Parents must receive, with the written permission slip, an overview of the topics and materials to be presented in the curriculum.

This amendment applies only to the programs funded through state grant dollars for Comprehensive Health Education. Therefore, if a funded program uses grant money to teach sex education, prior written approval from a parent or guardian is required. The written permission slip must be accompanied by an overview of the topics and materials to be presented in the curriculum.

Prior written approval is not required for other classes addressing human reproduction such as biology or science unless such classes are part of a Comprehensive Health Education program.