

The Martin County Board of Education is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The Martin County Board of Education recognizes the primary role of parents and legal guardians in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents and legal guardians in the schools as provided in this policy.

The health education program will meet all requirements established by G.S. 115C-81(e1), and aligned state-adopted standards. The Martin County Board of Education may, in its discretion, expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.

A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

A comprehensive health education program will be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage, STDs, the human reproductive system, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

This instruction will be provided through the designated age-appropriate curriculum and The Healthful Living Standard Course of Study

B. PARENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND WITHHOLD CONSENT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction.

A copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the nurse's office and/or health teacher's classroom of each school where these subjects will be taught.

The principal or designee shall also notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child's participation in all reproductive health and safety education

instruction or in specific topics such as STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Parents may also withhold consent to student participation in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy. Any parent or legal guardian wishing to withhold consent must do so in writing to the principal.

C. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION

For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional program objectives and only use the age-appropriate instructional materials that have been made available to parents and legal guardians for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education or other field authorized by law.

A determination of what is an appropriate education for a student with disabilities must be made in accordance with the student's individualized education plan, following all procedures as provided in the North Carolina *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*.

Contraceptives shall not be made available or distributed on school property. Further, the Martin County Board of Education and its employees shall not provide information to students about where to obtain contraceptives or abortion referral services, unless consent is given by the parent/guardian in person.

Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 9; 115C-36, -81(e1); State Board of Education Policies GCS-D-000, GCS-F-007; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, available at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities>

Cross References:

ADOPTED: October 4, 2010

Revised: May 2, 2016

Comprehensive Health Education Permission Slip

We will be having our Comprehensive Health Education classes for this semester beginning _____. If you wish for your child to attend these classes, they must have this form signed and returned by _____.

Students who do not return this form by _____, or who are not allowed to attend these classes will have alternative health class work to do in a separate classroom. Their work will be provided by their Health/PE teacher. The curriculum has been available for review in the nurse's office and/or health teacher's classroom for the past 60 days. If you are interested in reviewing the material, you may stop by the nurse's office and/or health teacher's classroom office during the school day, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If you have questions, you may call your child's Health/PE teacher at _____.

_____, Yes, I give permission for my child _____ to participate in the Comprehensive Health Education portion of the Health Curriculum beginning _____.

_____, No, I do not give permission for my child _____ to participate in the Comprehensive Health Education portion of the Health Curriculum beginning _____.

Parent's Signature

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Healthful Living Education curriculum and recent legislation requires us to include comprehensive health education through our health and physical education classes. Many hours have been spent planning to assure that we will be in compliance with current legislation, our state policy, our local policy, and what best fits the needs of our students. All supplemental materials used must fall within the objectives taught in the Healthful Living Education curriculum.

The curriculum stresses comprehensive health education regarding sexually transmitted diseases. Throughout the instruction, we will emphasize abstinence until marriage as the *best* and *only* safe choice for our students. Educators will teach this curriculum to students in grades 7, 8, and 9, which is the minimum requirement by law. The Healthful Living Education curriculum, comprehensive health education curriculum, and all supplemental materials for Martin County Schools will be on display in the nurse's office and/or health teacher's classroom for you to review. After the review period, a letter will be sent home with the student to inform you when the curriculum will be taught. At that time, you will have the option of withholding your child from this particular portion of the Healthful Living Education curriculum. This request must be made in writing to the school. If you withhold your child from this portion of the class, he or she will be given another health-related topic to research in another monitored classroom.

We encourage your comments and welcome your visits to review the material. If you have any questions, please feel free to call. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Principal