

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Code **IHAM** Issued **/14**

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Purpose: To establish the board's vision for 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. Health education will consist of appropriate, sequential instruction in health that is delivered as part of existing courses or as a separate course. Instruction will promote knowledge and skills that promote wellness, health maintenance and disease prevention.

Instruction will be consistent with the *South Carolina Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education* and will cover the following.

- community health
- consumer health
- environmental health
- growth and development
- nutritional health
- personal health prevention and control of diseases and disorders
- safety and accident prevention
- substance use and abuse
- dental health
- mental and emotional health
- reproductive health education
- instruction on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention

Reproductive health education, pregnancy prevention education and family life education will be delivered in accordance with state law.

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

Teachers who provide instruction in health education will have professional preparation in the subject area, either at the pre-service or in-service level.

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### **Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco**

All schools in the district will teach the nature of alcohol, narcotics and tobacco 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, as all other required subjects.

### **Teaching about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases**

The district will provide professional development opportunities for teachers responsible for teaching students about the dangers of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection (HIV) and its prevention. The district will develop an HIV/AIDS prevention education program in consultation with teachers, students, administrators, parents/legal guardians and other community members including, but not limited to, persons from medical, public health and mental health organizations and agencies.

The curriculum for HIV/AIDS prevention education will be designed to teach students not only about behaviors that put people at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, but also about the methods and skills needed to avoid the risk of infection.

Cf. EBBA, GBGA, JLCC

Adopted 4/25/94; Revised 11/25/96, 5/7/02, 1/28/13, 9/22/14

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#### **Legal references:**

- A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:
  - 1. Sections 59-29-20, 59-29-30, 59-29-40 - Instruction required regarding the effects of alcohol and narcotics.
  - 2. Section 59-32-10, et seq. - Comprehensive Health Education Act.
  - 3. Section 59-10-10, et seq. - Students Health and Fitness Act of 2005.
- B. State Board of Education Regulations:
  - 1. R-43-231, 43-232, 43-234 - Basic program; defined program.