

Notice to Parents Regarding Human Sexuality Instruction in Abilene ISD

This notice is to inform parents that age-appropriate human sexuality and responsibility lessons focusing on health, safety, and well-being are taught to 7th grade students in the Abilene ISD. Texas House Bill 1525 requires that districts provide written notice of a board's decision to provide human sexuality instruction.

The Abilene ISD Board of Trustees, in accordance with Board Policy EHAA (Legal), determines the specific content of a district's instruction in human sexuality after considering the advice of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). The SHAC is comprised of parents, medical professionals, community members, and educators.

Content Description

Abilene ISD utilizes materials from the Scott & White Worth the Wait program to develop and deliver six lessons to 7th grade students whose parents have given permission for them to participate. Students are separated into two groups, male and female, during this time. The Scott & White data-driven materials are founded on medical, legal, psychological, and socioeconomic information regarding adolescent health risk behaviors. The content is intended to support what students are learning at home, including respecting your individual family values and the family values of others that may differ from their own. The six lessons cover developmentally and age-appropriate information on the following topics:

- Essential human needs and healthy relationships
- Puberty
- Female and male anatomy
- Risky behaviors and sexual activity
- Teen pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted diseases

Curriculum Review

Parents have the right to review the human sexuality lessons free of charge or purchase a copy as available. All current curriculum materials used in human sexuality instruction are available in each middle school campus library for reasonable public inspection (Education Code 28.004[j]) by setting an appointment with campus administration. Review of the curriculum may occur during school business hours. If a parent wishes to purchase a copy of the curriculum, please contact the Director of Health Services at 325-677-1444 for information on ordering and pricing.

Permission Process

During the spring semester, a parent or legal guardian of each 7th grade student will complete a permission form indicating whether the student is allowed to participate in all, part, or none of the human sexuality lessons. Campuses will send the permission letters home at least two weeks prior to instruction. The permission letters will include lesson topics and discussion questions for parents. Students who do not participate will be provided alternative lessons that support social and emotional learning. Students will not be subjected to any disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction for nonparticipation.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Parents will be invited to participate in a meeting regarding the content and format of the human sexuality instruction during the spring semester prior to the beginning of the program. Parents may offer suggestions or give input to the School Health Advisory Committee by emailing the Director of Health Services at linda.langston@abileneisd.org.

Grievance Procedures

A parent who would like to make a complaint of a violation may use the grievance procedure contained in Board Policy FNG.