

I. RCSD Abstinence-Only Sex Related Education Policy

Pursuant to House Bill 999, the Rankin County School District believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The School Board is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic.

The Rankin County School District seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in the Rankin County School District by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, and by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as “Abstinence-Only” education programs.

Requirements of the Policy:

1. Classes must be separated by sex.
2. No effort to teach abortion as a means to prevent birth.
3. Requires written notice of inclusion or exclusion into the program.
4. May include a discussion of condoms or contraceptives only if the discussion includes factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.
5. Classes CANNOT include demonstration of how contraceptives are applied.

II. Components of the Abstinence-Only Program

***Abstinence-Only education includes any type of instruction (on a grade and age appropriate basis) that teaches some or all of the following:**

A) the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity, and the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining.

B) the harmful consequences to the child, the child's parents and society that bearing children out of wedlock is likely to produce, including the health, educational, financial and other difficulties the child and his or her parents are likely to face, as well as the inappropriateness of the social and economic burden placed on others.

C) that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teaches how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances.

D) that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and related health problems. The instruction or program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives. In no case shall the instruction or program include any demonstration of how condoms or other contraceptives are applied.

E) Teaches the current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support and homosexual activity.

F) Teaches that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the only appropriate setting for sexual intercourse.

III. Adoption

The Rankin County School District adopted an Abstinence-Only school-related sex education program utilizing the state approved “Choosing the Best” curriculum.

For more information, go to: <http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/>

To view the state adopted curriculums: http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/IB999curriculumtemplate_003.docx