

HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

Consistent with state law and Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including, instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, sexuality education, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related topics, will be included in the instructional program. Sexuality education shall include instruction relative to abstinence and sexually transmitted infections.

Instruction must be appropriate to grade level, course of study, and development of students and must occur in a systematic manner. The Superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents and legal guardians shall be notified by e-mail, other written means, website/social media postings, or phone call, not less than two (2) weeks in advance of use of the curriculum course material to be used for instruction of human sexuality or human sexual education, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression. Accordingly, the notice shall identify and provide contact information for the principal or other staff member a parent or guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material. However, no notice is required if a District employee is responding to a question from a student during class.

To the extent practicable, a school district shall make curriculum course materials available to parents or legal guardians for review upon request.

In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as a School District that receives federal Department of Education funds, and in accordance with NH RSA 186:11, IX-c, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to allow the parent/guardian of a student to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The procedures will provide reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Accordingly, the notice of procedures shall identify and provide contact information for the principal or other staff member a parent or guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material.

Opt-Out Procedure and Form

Students over eighteen years of age or parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious reasons or religious objections, are allowed to opt out or have their child opt-out of such instruction. (Note: Per RSA 186:11, IX-c, Parents/guardians have additional opt-out rights under Board policy **IGE**.)

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health for religious reasons must complete a Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course form.

Material: Opt-Out Form. Opt-Out Forms are available from either the health education teacher or the principal. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements for health education. The alternative assignment will be provided by the health or physical education teacher in conjunction with the principal.

Legal References:

RSA 186:11, IX Instruction as to Intoxicants and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

RSA 186:11, IX-b Health and Sex Education

RSA 186:11, IX-c Objectionable Course Material

RSA 186:11, IX-e Notice to Parents/Guardian Required

NH Code of Admin. Rules, Sect. Ed 306.40 Health Education Program

NH Code of Admin. Rules, Sect. Ed 306.41 Physical Education Program

20 U.S.C §1232h, (c)(1)(C) Protection of pupil rights

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