

Instruction**Comprehensive Health Education and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Curriculum**

The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to sexual health education. This Policy reflects the Board of Trustees commitment to ensure that The Woodstock Academy's comprehensive health and comprehensive sexual health education programming:

1. Is aligned with the Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines for the Sexual Health Education Component of Comprehensive Health Education (State Guidelines);
2. Is developmentally appropriate;
3. Is medically accurate and bias-free;
4. Is evidence informed or researched based;
5. Is culturally sensitive;
6. Is taught by a teacher holding the Connecticut Teacher Certification (043) and is supported by ongoing professional development that may include, but is not limited to, sexual health education topics;
7. Will be reviewed and evaluated at least once every five years including policy and curriculum;
8. Provides strategies to support all students regardless of sex, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression;
9. Provides a focus on health promotion and risk reduction within the context of the world in which students live;
10. Teaches the benefits of delaying sexual activity and stresses the importance of effectively using contraception and barrier methods to prevent pregnancy, and protect against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines;
11. Teaches information about FDA-approved methods of contraception that is medically accurate and adheres to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The instruction of contraception is subject to the age and developmentally appropriate guidelines set forth in the Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines;
12. Encourages abstinence and emphasizes that abstinence from sexual contact, when practiced consistently and correctly, is the only 100 percent effective method against unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Acknowledges the value of abstinence while not devaluing or ignoring those students who have had or are having sexual relationships;
13. Sexuality education materials, including instructional strategies and activities must not, in any way use shame or fear tactics;
14. Accumulates at least 5 hours of HIV and STD prevention taught during grades 9-12;
15. Is inclusive of physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of human sexuality and sexual responsibility;
16. Is consistent with Connecticut General Statutes (Section 10-16B) enacted to address the need for students to receive comprehensive health education;
17. Emphasizes that parents/guardians are the primary sexual health educators for their child(ren);
18. Engages parents, teachers, school administrators, local health department staff, other community representatives and persons from the medical community who are knowledgeable of the latest scientific information and effective educational strategies as partners and resources within the comprehensive health education program; and
19. No student shall be required to participate in the comprehensive sexual education program. A written notification to The Woodstock Academy administration by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian in accordance with State Statute (10-16E).

Sexual abuse and awareness program (PH 14-196) and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (PA 14-234)

1. Comprehensive Health Education program will include age-appropriate educational materials designed for children in grades nine to twelve, that cover child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention including, but not be limited to, the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and assault, boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact, and ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame, and mobilize bystanders.
2. Comprehensive Health Education program will include age-appropriate educational materials that cover domestic violence and sexual assault, bullying and teen dating violence education and prevention curricula.
3. No student shall be required to participate in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program. A written notification to the Woodstock Academy administration by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.
4. If a student is exempted from the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program, The Woodstock Academy designated staff shall provide, during the period of time in which the student would otherwise be participating in such program, an opportunity for other study or academic work.

Sexual Health Services (SHS)

1. Referrals

- A. Trained Woodstock Academy (WA) staff will provide referrals to the WA Health Clinic Staff;
- B. The Health Clinic Staff will maintain a list of Youth Friendly Providers (YFP) who offer sexual health and other medical services, in alignment with the philosophy and mission of The Academy.
- C. WA referral staff will be given ongoing, timely written guidelines and procedures for student referrals;
- D. A minor's right to privacy and confidentiality in regard to receiving relevant sexual health services and information thereof will be protected as required by state laws and regulations;
- E. YFP referrals address the diverse needs of all students (regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin or sexual orientation) (as defined by CT law);
- F. Review and evaluation of the referral process will be completed at least every five years, by the administration;
- G. Documentation of the number and types of referrals to SHS, and student's satisfaction with SHS and referrals will be reported monthly to the Head of School or his/her designee.

2. Condom Availability

- A. Increasing rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) among teens and the lack of resources available in Northeast Connecticut have prompted the need to provide comprehensive sexual health education along with a school-based program that makes condoms available to sexually active youth at no expense to the student.
- B. Designated WA Staff (e.g. teachers, social workers, school counselors, administrators) will be trained to provide education, counseling, referrals and condoms (barrier methods). Staff will be trained to stress the risks of sexual activity including the potential exposure to STI's and HIV. For those students engaging in sexual activity, they will instruct them on safer sex practices with proper use of condoms.
- C. Various locations of the school dependent upon the location of the designated WA Staff.

3. Staff Development

- A. Designated WA Staff will receive annual training on the most recent, medically accurate barrier technology. Information provided in this training will be factual, evidence based, current, and shall demonstrate sensitivity to the cultural and sexual diversity of students.

4. Student Education

- A. Students will receive information on barrier methods within the comprehensive sexual health education;
- B. All students will have the option to request additional health education information from the designated WA Staff;

5. Counseling

- A. All students shall have the option to receive private, confidential counseling upon request from designated WA Staff when obtaining condoms.
- B. Students shall be given information on condoms, their effectiveness, and if requested, or needed, medical referrals.

Helping students attain a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality is a continuous task of every generation. Parents have the prime responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values relating to human sexuality. The Academy should support and supplement parents' efforts in the areas of family life and sex education by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss concerns, issues and attitudes inherent in family life and sexual behavior, including traditional moral values.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes
10-16c State board to develop family life education curriculum guides.
10-16d Family life education programs not mandatory.
10-16e Students not required to participate in family life education programs.
10-16f Family life programs to supplement required curriculum.

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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut