THE LAW &YOU

Human Sexuality Education

Classroom Teacher Legal Obligation Information

Human Sexuality in Education

Sexuality Education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs, and values about one's own sexual identity and personal relationships. Sexuality education encompasses interpersonal relationships, gender roles, reproductive health, and sexual development. Consistent with Michigan School Code, sexuality education must promote abstinence from sex as a responsible method for restricting and preventing diseases and as a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.

Human Sexuality may include:

- Abstinence
- Birth Control
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Human Reproduction
- Relationships
- Risk Situations
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Teen Pregnancy/Pregnancy
- Violence

Sex or sexual contact with an individual under the age of 16 is a crime punishable by imprisonment.

One of the other results of being convicted of this crime may be being listed on the sex offender registry, ranging from 15 years to life.

Legal Obligation of Public Schools

Teacher Qualifications

Teacher training is required in Monroe County. This means if you do not have Human Sexuality training, then you should not be teaching or discussing these topics. Our school district requires documentation on file.

Classroom Instruction

Human Sexuality Education is deter- mined by the district in conjunction with the Michigan School code.

Teachers

- Must include abstinence in classroom discussions, curriculum, and other instructional topics.
- May not distribute family planning devices.
- May not teach clinical abortion as a means of family planning or birth control.

Board of Education

Board approval: District Human Reproductive Health Committee — Definition of Human Sexuality in Education — Public Hearings (2) required to approve Human Sexuality related curriculum.

Parental Rights

- Parent notification required. May preview materials.
- Parents can choose an annual or continuing opt-out for a non-required lesson/class.
- Teachers must provide a non-sexuality education alternate lesson when student opts out with no loss of class credit.

This Means YOU!

No matter what your subject area, there may be times when the teaching of Human Sexuality applies to YOU!

English — Writing, novels, or oth- er stories, opinion/debate papers on ethnical issues.
Social Studies/History — Current events, historical perspectives of cultural, birth, death, sexuality practices, diversity issues related to hate crimes.
Science — Genetics, cloning, birth defects, human anatomy, writing
Math — Graphs of at-risk behavior rates.
Technology — Internet applications, graphics, web pages, e-mail, chat, etc.
Health & Life Management — Personal safety, AIDS/HIV, dating violence, sexual harassment, blood borne pathogens, intimacy, growth and development.
Other — This includes any area in education dependent on circumstances. Problem solving, impact papers, videos, guest speakers, class discussions, or writing.

How do I know if what I am doing is OK?

Be Safe...Be Sure

If you are not sure about any topic area, contact:
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Student Services
Dr. Mark French - 734-850-6025

District Human Reproductive Health Committee Co-Chairs
Karen Weis & Mindy Klawonn - 734-850-6034