Policy ICG: Sex-Related Education

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/08/2014

ABSTINENCE-PLUS SEX EDUCATION

BELIEF

The Coahoma County School Board 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 Coahoma County School District seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in the Coahoma 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 births 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-Plus” education programs.

The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Plus curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice the curricula of Abstinence-Plus developed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE’s approved curriculum list.

ABSTINENCE-PLUS SEX EDUCATION

The Coahoma County School Board Board adopts a Mississippi Department of Education approved “Abstinence-Plus Education Curriculum” and requires the implementation of such program and curriculum in the Coahoma County School District effective at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

Furthermore, the Coahoma County School Board:

1. Prohibits any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby;

2. Requires boys and girls to be separated into different classes when sex-related education is discussed or taught;

3. Prohibits instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms; and

4. Requires the school nurse employed by the school district to carry out the functions of those strategies to promote consistency in the administration of the program if the district adopts the program developed by the Mississippi Department of Health.

DEFINITION

Abstinence-Plus education is a grade and age appropriate school curriculum that includes every component of the following, plus any other programmatic or instructional components approved by the MDE:

- 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;

- 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;

- that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teaches how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances;

- 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 current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support and homosexual activity; and

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

- any other age and grade appropriate material such as contraceptives (excluding instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms), the nature, cause and effects of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, along with a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates.

PARENT'S RIGHTS

Each school providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly or other official setting shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice thereof to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for such instruction or presentation. The notice must also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

PROCEDURES

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall establish procedures to support this policy. The Superintendent will provide the Coahoma County School Board with an annual report on the outcomes of the Abstinence-Plus education program. If funding is available, this report shall include quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of the program and shall include the perspective of students, teachers, and parents/guardians.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with the Board's policy review process. This policy shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, including but not limited to code sections 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175, as amended and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REQUIREMENT

No Child Left Behind prohibits the use of funds authorized under this Act to be used to:

1. Develop or distribute material, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual,

2. Provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, and

3. Operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.