

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

The board of education shall maintain a family life education curriculum that provides material suited to each grade level, presented in a manner intended to foster respect for the human body and an understanding of how human sexuality affects personal and family relationships in conformance with the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

The curriculum, developed under the supervision of the chief school administrator with the active participation of teachers, administrators, pupils, parents/guardians, physicians, members of the clergy and representative members of the community, shall be available to all parents/guardians. The board shall ensure compliance with all requirements of state and federal law concerning the content of the curriculum and distribution of materials. An outline of the curriculum and list of instructional materials for the grades of their children shall be sent to parents/guardians annually.

The chief school administrator shall ensure that the curriculum developed is articulated to that of the elementary school(s), so that the transition from elementary to secondary approaches to this material will be easy for all pupils.

*Parents will be notified in advance of family life education and any pupil whose parent/guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instruction in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with their conscience, or moral or religious beliefs, shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given, and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom. Alternative instructional activities will be provided to those students who are exempted from the activity.*

The board urges all parents/guardians to become familiar with these courses and to participate in their development.

The board of education alone, upon recommendation of the chief school administrator, shall determine the content, sequence and materials of family life education.

Date:           Reviewed: May 21, 2008  
                  Adopted: August 20, 2008

Legal References:    Use legal reference sheet.

Cross References:   List your appropriate policies. See legal reference sheet for possibilities.

Key Words  
Family Life Education

Legal References

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**Monitored:**

Indicator 3.1

**Other Reasons:**

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.19 through –4.22 requires that the board’s family life and HIV/AIDS curricula must stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy.

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1(d) directs the board to establish procedures allowing students to opt out of objectionable portions of the family life curriculum, if parents/guardians submit a signed statement that it conflicts with the student’s conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs.

No Child Left Behind has further limitations on sex education. Federal funds cannot be used to develop or distribute products or programs that encourage or promote sexual activity; distribute or aid in the distribution by any organization of obscene materials on school grounds; provide sex education or HIV prevention education unless that instruction is age appropriate and emphasizes abstinence; or operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.

**Recommendation:**

A policy addressing procedures for continued development of a family life program in the district. The process should include appropriate consultation and participation of teachers, school administrators, parents/guardians, pupils in grades nine through 12, community members, physicians and members of the clergy; sending to parents/guardians annually an outline of the curriculum and list of instructional materials.

The policy should also include acknowledgment of the parent/guardian right to have a child excused without penalty from portions of the program that are against their moral or religious beliefs.

- Legal References:**
- N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 through -4.8 Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979
  - N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.19 through -4.22 “AIDS Prevention Act of 1999”
  - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction
  - N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2 Documentation of student achievement

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (continued)

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-12.1 Reporting requirements

Pupil Protection Rights Amendment - 20 U.S.C. 1232h

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts

**Possible**

**Cross References:** \*1220 Ad hoc advisory committees  
\*5131.6 Drugs, alcohol, tobacco (substance abuse)  
5141.6 Crisis intervention  
\*6122 Articulation  
\*6140 Curriculum adoption  
\*6142 Subject fields  
\*6142.13 HIV prevention education  
\*9130 Committees

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.