

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The North America West Area Presidency has provided information regarding the sex education curricula in California that we would like to share with you as parents of school-age children in our stake.

Overview

The California Healthy Youth Act (AB 329 or CHYA) requires public schools to teach students comprehensive sexuality information at least twice, once in junior high and once in high school, and authorizes it to be taught in elementary school. The law requires curriculum to teach about sexual activity, to respect different sexual orientations and relationships, and to teach about harms of negative gender stereotypes. School districts are required to notify parents/guardians at least 14 days prior to the first day of comprehensive sexual health instruction.

Each local school district and its elected school board decides which curricula and textbooks are used and whether to include elementary school students. Once a curriculum is chosen, it is mandatory for a student to receive this comprehensive sex education unless a parent or guardian exercises the opt-out rights provided in the CHYA.

The opt-out provision does not apply to materials outside the comprehensive sexual health education, including those that may reference gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, discrimination, bullying, relationships, or family.

We recommend that all parents learn about the material that will be taught to their children in the sex education curriculum that has been adopted or is being proposed in their area.

Parental involvement is vital in providing input and helping local school districts and administrators adopt a curriculum that is appropriate for their children. Neither the CHYA or the California Department of Education dictates which curriculum local districts must adopt.

Church Statement

In “To the Point: What is the Church’s position on sex education?” in the March 2017 New Era magazine, the following statement was addressed to the youth:

“Church leaders have said that you should be taught about intimacy primarily by your parents. In this responsibility, parents are encouraged to teach in the home about sexual intimacy honestly and plainly to help their children avoid serious transgressions. The Church even has materials to help in this teaching.

“When it comes to what you are taught in school about sex, Church leaders have urged your parents to be aware of what is taught there and to do what they can to ensure that it follows good moral and ethical values.”

The California Department of Education responds to Frequently Asked Questions here:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/he/cf/cahealthfaq.asp>

To assist you in this effort, the following stake members have been asked, as School Specialists, to learn about the sex education curricula adopted by the school district in their area. Feel free to contact them for more information:

Chico: Robin Cook, 530-990-2665, robinettecook@gmail.com

Orland: Rachel Nelson, 720-382-3070, nelsonmaam@gmail.com

Paradise: Emily Vail, 530-864-6403, emilyreadnow@gmail.com

Willows: Michelle Thomas, 530-228-9145, mmthomas668@sbcglobal.net

(Chico Stake Presidency)