

## Human Sexuality Curriculum Policy

### I. Definitions

- a. "Curriculum materials review committee (committee)" means a committee formed at the school level that includes parents, health professionals, school health educators, and administrators, with at least as many parents as school employees. The membership of the committee shall be appointed and reviewed annually by August 1 of each year by the Board, shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the membership, shall select its own officers and shall be subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings law, [Utah Code Sections 52-4-1 through 52-4-10](#).
- b. "Human sexuality instruction or instructional programs" means any course, unit, class, activity or presentation that provides instruction or information to students about sexual abstinence, human reproduction, reproductive anatomy, physiology, pregnancy, marriage, childbirth, parenthood, contraception, or HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. While these topics are most likely discussed in such courses as health education, health occupations, human biology, physiology, parenting, adult roles, psychology, sociology, child development, and biology, this rule/policy applies to any course or class in which these topics are the focus of discussion.
- c. "Maturation education" means instruction and materials used to provide fifth or sixth grade students with age appropriate, accurate information regarding the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty, to assist in protecting students from abuse and to promote hygiene and good health practices.
- d. "Medically accurate" means verified or supported by a body of research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in journals that have received peer review, where appropriate, and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the American Medical Association.
- e. All other definitions and provisions provided in [UCA 53G-10-402](#) apply to this Policy.

### II. Parental Permission Form Required for Participation

Students may not participate in any human sexuality instruction or instructional program unless, prior to the student's participation, the school has on file for that student a completed parental notification form relating to that specific instruction or program which indicates that the student's parent or guardian authorizes the student to participate. Completed permission forms shall be maintained in the student's educational records. The USBE model form (used by VAC) is found at: <https://schools.utah.gov/file/09200d84-c5c8-4898-a799-46354410dd29>

### III. Health and Human Sexuality Requirements

- a. All health and human sexuality education shall stress the importance of abstinence from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods of preventing sexually transmitted diseases. The curriculum and education shall also stress personal skills that encourage individual choice of abstinence and fidelity in marriage.
- b. At no time may instruction be provided, including responses to spontaneous questions raised by students, regarding any means or methods that facilitate or encourage the violation of any state or federal criminal law by a minor or an adult.
- c. Nothing in this policy precludes an educator from responding to a spontaneous question provided that the response is consistent with this policy.

- d. The following may not be taught in Utah schools/VAC:
  - i. The intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation, or erotic behavior.
  - ii. The advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity.
  - iii. The advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices.  
(R277-474-3(1))

#### **IV. Instructional Staff Training and Inservice**

- a. VAC staff who have responsibility for some aspect of human sexuality instruction in VAC may include administrators, teachers, counselors, teacher's assistants, or coaches, but are not necessarily limited to those categories.
- b. In their first year of service or assignment, all newly hired or newly assigned VAC staff who have responsibility for any aspect of human sexuality instruction at VAC will attend professional development outlining the human sexuality curriculum and the criteria for human sexuality instruction in any courses offered in the public education system.
- c. All VAC staff who have any responsibility for any aspect of human sexuality instruction at VAC will attend VAC training outlining the human sexuality curriculum and the criteria for human sexuality instruction in any courses offered in the public education system at least once every three (3) years.

#### **V. Human Sexuality Curriculum Materials Review Committee**

- a. The VAC Board shall appoint a Human Sexuality Curriculum Materials Review Committee. This committee shall be composed of parents, health professionals, school health educators, and administrators, with at least as many parent members as school employee members. The Board shall review the membership of the committee by August 1 of each year, making new appointments as necessary or appropriate.
- b. The VAC Human Sexuality Curriculum Materials Review Committee shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the members of the committee, shall establish procedures for operation, and shall designate a chair.

#### **VI. Review of Guest Presentations Relating to Human Sexuality**

- a. Before any guest speaker or guest presenter may present any information in any VAC course relating to human sexuality instruction, the speaker or presenter and the materials to be presented must have been approved by the VAC Human Sexuality Curriculum Materials Review Committee.
- b. The committee shall not authorize the use of any human sexuality instructional program which has not been previously approved for use in VAC as set forth below regarding curriculum approval.

#### **VII. Adoption of District Human Sexuality Instructional Materials**

- a. The VAC Board hereby adopts for use in VAC the human sexuality instructional materials recommended by the Utah State Board of Education. All human sexuality instruction at VAC shall make use of those instructional materials.
- b. VAC will develop a logging and tracking system of parental and community complaints and comments resulting from student participation in human sexuality instruction, to include the disposition of the complaints, and provide that information to the USBE upon request.

- c.** If the VAC Board adopts human sexuality instruction materials which have not previously been approved by the State Instructional Materials Commission, the VAC Board shall report such adoption to the State Board of Education consistent with R277-474-6(3).
- d.** The VAC Board shall annually review the decision to adopt the human sexuality instructional materials used at VAC and shall consider whether to continue use of those materials.