

SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

348 Rowe Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555



Michelle Savko
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction
Ph: (760) 499-1640
Fax: (760) 446-7413

September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to notify parents/guardians of changes to California law regarding Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention instruction. The new law has been named the California Healthy Youth Act and all Education Code regarding this act is available at your student's school upon request. (Education Code 51930-51939) Previously optional, Comprehensive Sexual Health instruction is now required for all pupils in grades 7 to 12, to be taught once in middle school and once in high school. HIV/AIDS prevention education remains a requirement. This instruction shall include all of the following criteria listed below and will be taught by district personnel trained in the curriculum.

Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV Prevention Education - Education Code 51933:

1. Instruction and materials shall be age appropriate.
2. All factual information presented shall be medically accurate and objective.
3. Instruction and materials shall be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds, pupils with disabilities, and English learners.
4. Instruction and materials shall be made available on an equal basis to a pupil who is an English learner, consistent with the existing curriculum and alternative options for an English learner pupil as otherwise provided in this code.
5. Instruction and materials shall be accessible to pupils with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the provision of a modified curriculum, materials and instruction in alternative formats, and auxiliary aids.
6. Instruction and materials shall not reflect or promote bias against any person.
7. Instruction and materials shall affirmatively recognize that people have different sexual orientations and, when discussing or providing examples of relationships and couples shall be inclusive of same-sex relationships.
8. Instruction and materials shall teach pupils about gender, gender expression, gender identity, and explore the harm of negative gender stereotypes.
9. Instruction and materials shall encourage a pupil to communicate with his or her parents, guardians, and other trusted adults about human sexuality and provide the knowledge and skills necessary to do so.
10. Instruction and materials shall teach the value of and prepare pupils to have and maintain committed relationships such as marriage.

11. Instruction and materials shall provide pupils with knowledge and skills they need to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection, and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation.
12. Instruction and materials shall provide pupils with knowledge and skills for making and implementing healthy decisions about sexuality, including negotiation and refusal skills to assist pupils in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision-making skills to avoid high-risk activities.
13. Instruction and materials may not teach or promote religious doctrine.

In addition to currently adopted Health curriculum, supplemental materials will be used to provide the required instruction outlined in the California Healthy Youth Act, Sexual Health Education for America's Youth, Positive Prevention Plus, 2016. Educational materials are available for review at your student's school.

A parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse his/her child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education. (Education Code 51938) If you do NOT want your child to participate in all or part of this curriculum please complete the information below and return it to the school office.

If you have any questions regarding this instruction or would like to make an appointment to review materials please contact me.

Sincerely,

_____, Principal

I have read the above information regarding the instruction outlined in the California Healthy Youth Act and I do NOT want my student to participate in this curriculum.

Student Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date