The board is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The board recognizes the primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents in the schools as provided in this policy. The health education program provided by the school district will meet all requirements established by law, including the Basic Education Program (BEP), G.S. 115C-81(e1).

Family Life Education centers upon the family as the key unit and irreplaceable foundation of society. The Family Life Education policy of the Onslow County School System is to clearly articulate, through qualified teachers and appropriate personnel, using directive teaching methods, a curriculum that is abstinence-based, family-centered, and age-appropriate. In addition, the curriculum will include information regarding reproductive anatomy, physiology, fetal development, and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. This K-12 curriculum will benefit the quality and longevity of the lives of our children by reaching the "whole" student through parental involvement, factual information, critical thinking skills development, and motivation to make healthy, responsible choices. The curriculum will promote sexual abstinence until marriage and monogamy within marriage. The implementation of this policy shall be the responsibility of all administrators and all teachers at every grade level in all subject areas.

A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

A comprehensive health education program will be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases ("STDs") including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage, STDs, the human reproductive system, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy and awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

B. PARENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND WITHHOLD CONSENT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principals or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A copy of all objectives and materials will be
available for review in the media center of each school where these subjects will be taught.

The principal or designee shall also notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child’s participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction or in specific topics such as STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Parents may also withhold consent to student participation in other separate instruction on prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

C. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION

For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional objectives and only use the age-appropriate materials that have been made available to parents for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education or other field authorized by law.

A determination of what will be an appropriate education for any student with identified exceptionalities will be made in accordance with the student’s individualized education plan, following all procedures as provided in the North Carolina Procedures Governing Programs and Special Services for Children With Special Needs.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

I. Objectives

A. Directive Teaching Method
   In instruction involving decision-making strategies, the teacher will direct the pupil to choices of legal, ethical, and moral dimensions that will promote health, sexual abstinence, self control, character, self esteem, and maturity.

B. Abstinence Based Education
   1. Sexual abstinence will be the instructional approach to reducing destructive behaviors among students, including early sexual involvement and activities which result in sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, emotional scars, and teenage pregnancy. Sexual abstinence until marriage will be presented as the positive, practical and preferred lifestyle. Teachers will instruct students that premarital sexual activity is not inevitable nor irreversible if started.

   2. Abstinence until marriage and faithfulness within marriage will be taught as the only methods without risks. While methods of contraception will be included in age-appropriate curriculums, the failure rate of condoms and other methods of birth control and accompanying myths will be emphasized. Abortion will not be taught as a method of birth control.
3. Distribution or demonstration of actual use of contraceptives to students on school property or by school staff is clearly prohibited. Students or parents who request additional information will be referred to an appropriately trained professional.

C. Family Centered
   1. Instruction will emphasize the positive values of sexuality within the context of a lifelong, monogamous, heterosexual marriage, making clear reference with the terms "husband," "wife," and "spouse." Homosexuality will not be taught as a replacement of the traditional nuclear family unit. Using the directive teaching method, the teacher will include the value of marriage and the family to society. The teacher will also assist the student in his/her understanding of the role played by marriage and the family in supporting society.

   2. Through cooperation with families, interested community groups and schools, a climate needs to be established which promotes and enables the development of self-control, maturity and healthy, responsible family-life decision making.

D. Age-Appropriate
   All instruction, curriculum and any supplemental resources will be appropriate to age, grade level and consistent with the values of the community. Curriculum objectives will be implemented in a sequential program of instruction to meet the needs and developmental characteristics of the majority of students at any given grade level.

II. Teacher Role

A. The teacher's role will be to transmit facts, to be a positive role model and to be a leader who provides clear guidance and principles based on the values of honesty and respect. Students will be presented with high standards as the basis for healthy choices and conduct.

B. Teachers need to recognize parents/guardians as primary family life educators of their children and will also recognize that parental guidance is essential and irreplaceable in family life education. All instructional materials, including teacher’s manuals, films, tapes or supplemental instructional materials will be available for parents/guardians to preview and use at home.

   An annual, open and effective parental review process will be implemented, beginning at the fifth grade level, prior to introducing the family life curriculum.

C. Teachers will present age-appropriate information about reproductive anatomy, physiology, fetal development, and STDs including AIDS.

D. Teachers will present legal issues such as laws dealing with statutory rape, abortion, homosexuality, incest and divorce.

III. Teacher Qualifications
A. Contingent upon available funding, certified teachers and school nurses employed by the Onslow County Schools who have received appropriate family life staff development will be utilized to present the family life curriculum.

B. Appropriate guest speakers may be used in the classroom under the direct supervision of the classroom teacher. The Onslow County Family Life Education policy and guidelines will be provided to all speakers. All material to be used by guest speakers will be previewed by the teacher. The Onslow County Board of Education does not condone the use of contracted services for instructors with outside agencies, either public or private to teach Family Life Education.

Rationale: It is difficult to maintain accountability of performance by outside agencies. Content may not be appropriate or compatible with local standards of acceptability and propriety.

Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 9; 115C-36, -81.25, -81.30; Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities, State Board of Education Policy EXCP-000; State Board of Education Policy SCOS-007

Cross References:

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