

OVERVIEW

Requirements of the Comprehensive Health Education Act of 1988

Applicable to Grades K-5

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED:

Instruction in comprehensive health education must include:

- community health
- consumer health
- environmental health
- growth and development
- nutritional health
- personal health
- prevention and control of diseases and disorders
- safety and accident prevention
- substance use and abuse
- dental health
- mental and emotional health

At the discretion of the local board, age-appropriate instruction in reproductive health may be included.

EXCLUSIONS:

- *Sexually transmitted diseases* are to be excluded from instruction on the prevention and control of diseases and disorders. At the discretion of the local board, age-appropriate instruction in reproductive health may be included.
- Instruction may not include a discussion of *alternate sexual lifestyles* from heterosexual relationships.
- Instruction explaining the *methods of contraception* must not be included.
- Except as to that instruction provided by this chapter relating to complications which may develop from all types of *abortions*, school districts may not offer programs, instruction, or activities including abortion counseling, information about abortion services, or assist in obtaining abortion, and materials containing this information must not be distributed in schools.
- *Films, pictures, or diagrams* must be designed solely for the purpose of explaining bodily functions or the human reproduction process and may not include actual or simulated portrayals of sexual activities or sexual intercourse.

DEFINITIONS:

- **“Reproductive health education”** means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. Abstinence and the risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage must be strongly emphasized.
- **“Family life education”** means instruction intended to:
 - (a) develop an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of close personal relationships and an understanding of the physiological, psychological, and cultural foundations of human development;
 - (b) provide instruction that will support the development of responsible personal values and behavior and aid in establishing a strong family life for themselves in the future and emphasize the responsibilities of marriage.
 - (c) provide instruction as to the laws of this State relating to the sexual conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct.
- **“Pregnancy prevention education”** means instruction intended to:
 - (a) stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage;
 - (b) help students develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and abstain from sexual activity;
 - (c) explain methods of contraception and the risks and benefits of each method. Abortion must not be included as a method of birth control. Instruction explaining the methods of contraception must not be included in any education program for grades kindergarten through fifth. Contraceptive information must be given in the context of future family planning.