

Reproductive & Relationship Health Education & Teen Pregnancy Prevention Policy

The primary goal of human growth & development education is to ensure students in grades 5th through 12th grade receive education that aids them in understanding their rights, learning respect for others, understanding risks, and acquiring skills to mitigate those risks.

- a) Classroom teaching: Schools will offer human growth & development education that:
 - Is offered at each grade level in accordance with WVDE Policy 2520.5: 21st Century Health Education 5-12 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools, WVDE Policy 2510: Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs, WVDE Policy 2422.4 AIDS Education, and in accordance with W. Va. Code §18-2-9; as a part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health
 - Medically-accurate & bias free
 - Evidence-based or evidence-informed
 - Inclusive of physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of human sexuality
 - Focused on improving knowledge and skill-building to help students maintain and improve their sexual health by delaying sexual initiation, reducing sexual health-related risk behaviors, and preventing disease and pregnancy
 - Planned, age- and developmentally-appropriate
 - Linked with reproductive and mental health services in the schools and community (i.e. STD/HIV testing and treatment, family planning services in the SBHCs, domestic violence and sexual assault agencies, CPS for abuse and incest)
- b) Professional Development: Educators responsible for teaching human growth & development shall receive professional development:
 - In accordance with WVDE Policy 2422.4 AIDS Education entailing periodic staff development that enables them to implement effective AIDS education
 - In accordance with WVDE Policy 2520.5: 21st Century Health Education 5-12 Content Standards and Objectives for West Virginia Schools, that enables them to address all standards relating to human growth & development
 - That addresses information on
 - State and county policies pertaining to provision of sexuality education and access to services for older students;
 - Basic human development and its social, biological and cognitive domains;
 - State health education standards, curricula frameworks and scope and sequence within the county;
 - Content pertaining to the delivery of sexuality education topics including contraceptives, HIV and STDs; and
 - Legal and ethical responsibilities pertaining to sexual abuse, consent and other applicable state laws.

- c) Parental Involvement: parents will be engaged to support reproductive and relationship health education for their children
- In accordance with W.Va. Code §18-2-9, an opportunity shall be afforded to the parent or guardian of a child subject to instruction in the prevention, transmission and spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements and materials to be used in the instruction. The parent or guardian may exempt the child from participation in the instruction by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal.
 - Through assignments of homework to students as part of their sexual health unit that encourages communication about sexual health topics.
- d) School Health Services
- School nurses and physicians shall:
 - Provide medically accurate information and resources to students and staff;
 - Provide referrals and counseling relative to pregnancy, STD and HIV testing;
 - Dispense condoms and contraceptives; and
 - Maintain privacy and confidentiality of students in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- e) Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students
- Whereas, promoting a safe, inclusive school environment for all students is a key task within public education, no student will be discriminated against on the basis of his or her sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression
 - Bullying as a result of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will not be tolerated by school personnel in accordance with WVDE Policy 4373: Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools
- f) Assessment: Progress of county-wide efforts to address reproductive and relationship health as well as teen pregnancy prevention will be assessed through an annual report compiling key data measures:
- a. Health Education Assessment Project (HEAP) scores on human growth & development for 6th grade, 8th grade, and high school students
 - b. WV Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (WV BRFSS) data on teen births and sexual risk behavior
 - c. WV DHHR Epidemiological data on STD prevalence and pathology
 - d. Policy 4373 Reporting Tool results on bullying
 - e. CDC School Health Profiles
- g) Improvement: The county Wellness Advisory Council will review annual report and determine goals and strategies for improvement.