



Purpose:

Legislative updates/amendments to s. 1002.20, F.S. and s.1003.42, F.S. require the annual board approval of the instructional materials used to teach reproductive health or any disease including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment. (See legislative updates below)

Background & Predetermination Work:

Lake Wales Charter Schools will follow the sponsor district, Polk County Public Schools, in adopting the proposed plan for learning comprehensive health information and skills. These lessons will educate students on how to maintain and improve health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related, risk-taking behaviors. Timely and effective health education can help adolescents make positive decisions.

LWCS offers an abstinence-centered instruction model as defined by the Florida Department of Education. This model emphasizes the benefits of abstinence; includes information about non-coital sexual behavior, contraception, and disease prevention methods. Information about contraception is included in the high school course content.

Health Services personnel in conjunction with classroom teachers in grades 4 - 12 provide students with age and developmentally appropriate information regarding human growth and development. Prior to instruction, a parent notification letter is issued outlining the lesson topics, providing an opportunity to review the instructional materials and extend the option to exempt their student from the reproductive health lessons. In addition, the instructional materials will be accessible on the district's website for parents to view. Information regarding the process for the parental right of exemption will be included. The curriculum, materials, and model of instruction are based on the following:

Florida Statute 1003.42(2)(n) requires comprehensive health education, which incorporates both sex education and disease prevention and includes language on the awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy. Specific content in any subject matter is determined by local school district policy, which gives districts the latitude to determine the type of family life (sexual health education) program that is implemented.

Legislative updates - July 2021:

1003.42(1)(b) f.s. All instructional materials, as defined in s. 1006.29(2), used to teach reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its symptoms, development, and treatment, as part of the courses referenced in subsection (3), must be annually approved by a district school board in an open, noticed public meeting.

Parental rights (1002.20 f.s.) and required instruction (1003.42(2)(n) f.s) provide that each school district must notify parents of the right to make a written request to exempt his or her child from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS. This notification must be through publication on the district's website homepage and include the process for a parent to exercise this right. The notification must also include a link for a student's parent to access and review the instructional materials, as defined in s. 1006.29(2), F.S., used to teach the curriculum.

**Executive Summary: Comprehensive Health Education
Pertaining to Reproductive Health Topics**

Proposal:

We ask the board to approve the comprehensive/reproductive health lessons for elementary, middle and high school. An overview of topics is listed below and the following should be noted:

- A link to access and review the instructional materials used to teach the curriculum will be included on the district's website homepage.
- The process to request an exemption will also be posted on the district's website homepage.
- A parent may make a written request to the school principal to exempt their student from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS. A student so exempted may not be penalized by reason of that exemption.

Lessons-Elementary School

Elementary schools will receive Human Growth and Development instruction in grades 4-5. Boys and girls are separated for puberty content in both grades. Members from the LWCS Health Services team will deliver the content. The topics include:

- Grade 4- puberty, reproductive systems, personal hygiene, and healthy decision-making.
- Grade 5- endocrine system/hormone production, puberty, reproductive systems, personal hygiene, immune system and HIV.

- Exceptional Student Education students in self-contained classrooms will receive instruction based on the same grade 4 and 5 topics as listed in this section. Content will be determined through collaboration with the classroom teacher and modified for delivery as age and developmentally appropriate.

Lessons-Middle School

Middle schools will receive Human Growth and Development instruction in grades 6, 7, and 8. Boys and girls are separated for puberty content in grade 6. Students are not separated for content in grades 7 and 8. Members from the LWCS Health Service team will deliver the content. The topics include:

- Grade 6- Reproductive systems, puberty and hygiene, fertilization and birth, and HIV and AIDS.
- Grade 7- Reproductive systems, puberty and hygiene, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV and AIDS, Dating Violence, human trafficking.
- Grade 8- Reproductive systems, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS, and dating violence and abuse, human trafficking.
- Exceptional Student Education students in self-contained classrooms will receive instruction based on the same grade 6, 7, and 8 topics as listed in this section. Content will be determined through collaboration with the classroom teacher and modified for delivery as age and developmentally appropriate.

Lessons-High School

The high school will receive Human Growth and Development instruction as a part of the Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course. Teachers for the HOPE course will deliver the content to students enrolled in their class. Students are not separated for content in high school in HOPE class. Separation of students for content in ESE self-contained will be decided on a classroom-by-classroom basis as age and developmentally appropriate.

- HOPE course requirements: community health, consumer health, environmental health, family life, injury prevention and safety, internet safety, mental and emotional health, nutrition, personal health, prevention and control of diseases, substance use and abuse, and teen dating.
- Exceptional Student Education students in self-contained classrooms will receive instruction based on the same topics listed in this section. Content will be determined through collaboration with the classroom teacher and modified for delivery as age and developmentally appropriate. Topics include personal health, prevention and control of diseases, substance use and abuse, and dating violence and abuse.

Next Steps:

- Discussion and approval of the comprehensive health lesson content for grades 4 through high school.
- If approved, lessons will be implemented in grades 4 through high school.

Course Curriculum:

Health curriculum is available for review at <https://www.lwcharterschools.com/healthcurriculum>.