

HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

It is the policy of the Board that health education shall be a part of the curriculum from kindergarten through grade twelve. Health education shall provide students with subject matter and learning activities for the acquisition of knowledge, attitudes, appreciations and behaviors essential to the growth, development, and wellbeing of each individual. Health education instruction shall be offered in the units prescribed by the minimum standards of the State of New Hampshire or adopted by the Board.

Consistent with state law and Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, sexuality education, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related topics, will be included in the instructional program. Sexuality education shall include instruction relative to abstinence and sexually transmitted infections.

Instruction must be appropriate to grade level, course of study, and development of students and must occur in systematic manner. The Superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians will have the right to inspect health and physical instruction materials which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents and legal guardians shall be notified by e-mail, other written means, website/social media postings or phone call, not less than two (2) weeks in advance of use of the curriculum course material to be used for instruction of human sexuality or human sexual education. To the extent practicable, a school district shall make curriculum course material available to parents or legal guardians for review upon request. Accordingly, the notice will identify and provide contact information for the Principal or other staff member a parent or guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material.

Opt-Out Procedure and Form

Parents/guardians, or students over eighteen years of age, who do not want their child to participate in particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious reasons or religious objections, are allowed to have their child opt-out of such instruction. **(Note: Per RSA 186:11, IX-c, Parents/guardians have additional opt-out rights under Board policy IGE.)**

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or for religious reasons must complete a Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course Material: Opt-Out Form. Opt-Out Forms are available from either the health education teacher or the Principal. Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements for health education. The alternative assignment will be provided by the health or physical education teacher in conjunction with the Principal.

In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights statute, as a School District that receives federal Department of Education funds, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to allow parent/guardian of student to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The procedures will provide reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Legal References:

20 U.S.C §1232h, (c)(1)(C), Protection of Pupil Rights

RSA 186:11, IX-c & IX-e Notice to Parents/Guardian Required

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.40, Health Education Program
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.41, Physical Education Program
RSA 186:11, IX-b, Health and Sex Education
Appendix IHAM-R, Health or Physical Education Opt-Out Form

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

First Reading:	October 25, 2017
Second Reading:	November 15, 2017
Adopted:	November 15, 2017
First Reading:	October 28, 2020
Second Reading:	November 18, 2020
Adopted:	November 18, 2020
First Reading:	May 25, 2022
Second Reading:	June 8, 2022
Revised:	June 8, 2022