

SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

Instruction and Materials

The Monterey County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) or designee shall ensure that the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction and materials are: [Education Code (E.C.) 51933, 51934]:

1. Age appropriate

Age appropriate refers to topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

2. Factually and medically accurate and objective

Medically accurate means verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where appropriate, and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

3. Available on an equal basis to a student who is an English learner, consistent with the existing curriculum and alternative options for an English learner, as otherwise provided in the Education Code

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

4. Appropriate for use with students of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and students with disabilities

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in MCOE Programs and Activities)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

5. Accessible to students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the provision of a modified curriculum, materials, and instruction in alternative formats and auxiliary aids

6. Not teaching or promoting religious doctrine

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7. Not reflecting bias or promoting prejudice against students in protected categories of discrimination pursuant to Education Code 220

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Other MCOE courses that may include subject matter related to that which is presented in either HIV/AIDS prevention or comprehensive sexual health instruction, shall not be subject to the requirements of Education Code 51930-51939 pertaining to instructional content, teacher training, and parental notification and consent, if such courses contain: [E.C. 51932]

1. Solely a description or illustration of human reproductive organs that may appear in a textbook adopted pursuant to law on physiology, biology, zoology, general science, personal hygiene, or health

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

2. Instruction or materials that discuss gender, sexual orientation, or family life and do not discuss human reproductive organs and their function

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

Additional Requirements for HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction

HIV/AIDS prevention instruction shall be offered at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school. [E.C. 51934]

Instruction shall accurately reflect the latest information and recommendations from the United States Surgeon General, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Academy of Sciences. The MCOE curriculum shall satisfy the criteria listed in items #1-7 in the section entitled "Instruction and Materials" above and shall also include: [E.C. 51931, 51934]

1. Information on the nature of HIV/AIDS and its effects on the human body
2. Information on the manner in which HIV is and is not transmitted, including information on activities that present the highest risk of HIV infection
3. Discussion of methods to reduce the risk of HIV infection, including:
 - a. Emphasis that sexual abstinence, monogamy, the avoidance of multiple sexual partners, and abstinence from intravenous drug use are the most effective means for HIV/AIDS prevention

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- b. Statistics based upon the latest medical information citing the failure and success rates of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing sexually transmitted HIV infection
 - c. Information on other methods that may reduce the risk of HIV transmission from intravenous drug use
4. Discussion of the public health issues associated with HIV/AIDS
5. Information on local resources for HIV testing and medical care
6. Development of refusal skills to assist students in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision-making skills to avoid high-risk activities
7. Discussion about societal views on HIV/AIDS, including stereotypes and myths regarding persons with HIV/AIDS and emphasizing compassion for persons living with HIV/AIDS

Additional Requirements for Sexual Health Instruction

The MCOE sexual health education curriculum shall satisfy the criteria listed in items #1-7 in the section entitled "Instruction and Materials" above as well as the following criteria: [E.C. 51931, 51933]

1. Instruction and materials shall encourage a student to communicate with his/her parents/guardians about human sexuality.
2. Instruction and materials shall teach respect for marriage and committed relationships.
3. Beginning in grade 7, instruction and materials shall teach that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only certain way to prevent unintended pregnancy, teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and provide information about the value of abstinence while also providing medically accurate information on other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
4. Beginning in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide information about sexually transmitted diseases. This instruction shall include how sexually transmitted diseases are and are not transmitted, the effectiveness and safety of all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved methods of reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and information on local resources for testing and medical care for sexually transmitted diseases.

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5. Beginning in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide information about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy, including, but not limited to, emergency contraception.

(cf. 5141.25 - Availability of Condoms)

6. Beginning in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide students with skills for making and implementing responsible decisions about sexual conduct.

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

7. Beginning in grade 7, instruction and materials shall provide students with information on the law concerning surrendering physical custody of a minor child 72 hours or younger, pursuant to Health and Safety Code 1255.7 and Penal Code 271.5.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

Professional Development

The MCOE instruction shall be provided by instructors trained in the appropriate courses who are knowledgeable of the most recent medically accurate research on human sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. [E.C. 51932, 51933, 51934]

The County Superintendent or designee shall cooperatively plan and conduct in-service training for all district personnel who provide HIV/AIDS prevention education, through regional planning, joint powers agreements, or contract services. [E.C. 51935]

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

In developing and providing in-service training, the County Superintendent or designee shall cooperate and collaborate with the teachers who provide HIV/AIDS prevention education and with the California Department of Education (CDE). [E.C. 51935]

MCOE shall periodically conduct in-service training to enable district personnel to learn new developments in the scientific understanding of HIV/AIDS. In-service training shall be voluntary for district personnel who have demonstrated expertise or received in-service training from the CDE or federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [E.C. 51935]

The County Superintendent or designee may expand HIV/AIDS in-service training to cover the topic of comprehensive sexual health education for district personnel teaching sexual health education to learn new developments in the scientific understanding of sexual health. [E.C. 51935]

SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION INSTRUCTION (continued)**Use of Consultants or Guest Speakers**

The County Superintendent or designee may contract with outside consultants with expertise in comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, including those who have developed multilingual curricula or curricula accessible to persons with disabilities, to deliver the instruction or to provide training for district personnel. The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any instruction provided by an outside speaker or consultant complies with MCOE policy, administrative regulation, and Education Code 51930-51939. [E.C. 51933, 51934, 51936]

(cf. 6145.8 - Assemblies and Special Events)

Parent/Guardian Notification

At the beginning of each school year, or at the time of a student's enrollment, parents/guardians shall be notified about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education, as well as research on student health behaviors and risks, planned for the coming year. The notice shall advise parents/guardians: [E.C. 48980, 51938]

1. That written and audiovisual educational materials to be used in comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education are available for inspection
2. That parents/guardians may request in writing that their child not receive comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education
3. That parents/guardians have a right to request a copy of Education Code 51930-51939
4. Whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by district personnel or outside consultants

If the MCOE chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, the notification shall include: [E.C. 51938]

- a. The date of the instruction
- b. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
- c. Information stating the right of the parent/guardian to request a copy of Education Code 51933-51934

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If the arrangements for instruction by outside consultants or guest speakers are made after the beginning of the school year, MCOE shall notify parents/guardians by mail or another commonly used method of notification no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is given. [E.C. 51938]

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)