FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION

Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted based on district philosophy and needs.

Note: For districts receiving federal funds, section 7906 of the Every Student Succeeds Act sets limitations on how districts approach sexual subject matter and sex education. The law requires that federal funds not be used to (1) develop or distribute materials or programs that encourage or promote sexual activity, (2) distribute or aid in the distribution by any organization of obscene materials to minors on school grounds, (3) provide sex education or HIV prevention education unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, or (4) operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools. Non-federal funds may be used for these activities.

The School Board believes that a wholesome, well-planned sequence of instruction about family life and human sexuality is essential to the general education of all students. Lack of information or pervasive misinformation can cause low self-esteem, increased risk for sexually transmitted disease, unintended pregnancy or sterility, and school dropout. The district curriculum shall help students understand the biological, psychological, social, moral, and ethical aspects of human sexuality.

(cf. 5141.41 – Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault and Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention)
(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)
(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)
(cf. 6142.2 – AIDS Instruction)

The family life/sex education program shall encourage students to be abstinent and to conceptualize sexual behavior in the ethical and moral context of marriage. The program shall be age-appropriate and shall address a full range of topics, including parenting and birth control, and shall emphasize that abstinence from sex is the only totally effective protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Classes or programs in sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education may only be instructed by a certified teacher employed by or contracted with the district, or by an individual approved by the Board who is supervised by a certificated teacher employed by or contracted with the district. Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation, either preservice or in-service, in the subject area.

The Superintendent or designee will inform district curriculum specialists, those who teach sex education, school nurses, and other appropriate school staff of federal funding restrictions regarding the distribution of contraceptives and the development and distribution of materials that may promote or encourage sexual activities.

Before curriculum, literature, or materials related to sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education may be used in a class or distributed in a school, the materials shall be approved by the Board and made available for parents to review, except for those used to fulfill the obligation of the Alaska Safe Children’s Act.
The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that family life/sex education materials and instruction are medically accurate and regularly evaluated in light of information received from students, parents/guardians, and teachers.

Parents/guardians shall be notified in writing at least two weeks before students are offered any instruction, description, illustration, or discussion on human reproduction or sexual matters, including human reproductive organs and their functions, processes, or diseases. This notification shall inform parents/guardians that they may review instructional materials to be used in family life, sex education instruction, may review the credentials of any presenter who is not a certificated teacher of the district, and that they may request in writing that their child not attend the class. At the parent/guardian’s request, any student may be excused from any part of family life/sex education instruction, except for awareness and prevention training provided to students concerning sexual assault, sexual abuse, and dating violence and abuse.

Teachers who provide instruction in family life/sex education shall have professional preparation, either preservice or inservice, in the subject area.

Nothing in this policy or the law prohibits a school employee or volunteer from answering a question from a child about this topic.

(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 6020 – Parent Involvement)

Legal Reference:
ALASKA STATUTES
14.30.016 A parent’s right to direct the education of the parent’s child
14.30.361 Sex education, human reproductive education, and human sexuality education
14.30.355 Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention
14.30.356 Dating violence and abuse policy, training, awareness, prevention, and notices
14.30.360 Curriculum

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