

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: August 15, 2016

To: Principals, Grades 6-12

Subject: PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

Department and/or Persons Concerned: Principals, Vice Principals, Sexual Health Education Teachers, School Nurses, School Counselors, Science Teachers

Due Date: August 26, 2016

Reference: Administrative Procedure 4188; Site Operations Circular 1005; CA Healthy Youth Act (CA Education Code §§ 51930-51939)

Action Requested: Send notification letter to parents/guardians; Arrange for parent/guardian preview of materials

Brief Explanation:

The California Healthy Youth Act ([CA Education Code §§ 51930-51939](#)) requires schools to notify parents of comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention instruction and to make materials available for parents to review. Schools shall notify the parent/guardian of this instruction at the beginning of each school year, or, for a pupil who enrolls in a school after the beginning of the school year, at the time of that pupil's enrollment. If arrangements for this instruction are made after the beginning of the school year, notice shall be made by mail or another commonly used method of notification, no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is delivered ([§ 51938](#)).

The notice shall address the following:

1. Advise the parent/guardian that written and audio-visual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education are available for inspection at the school.
2. Advise the parent/guardian whether the comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education will be taught by school district personnel or by outside agencies.
3. Advise the parent/guardian of their right to request a copy of CA Education Codes pertaining to comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education.
4. Advise the parent/guardian that they may request in writing to the school that their child be excused from part of all of the comprehensive sexual health or HIV prevention instruction.
5. **Sample parent/guardian notification letters in multiple languages that fulfill the above stated legal requirements are available on the district website at www.sandiegounified.org/SHEP → Staff Resources → Teacher and Staff Resources (login with district ID) → Parent Notification and Previews.** These letters may be included in the enrollment packet distributed to students at the beginning of the school year or sent to students' homes at a later date. Please note that schools cannot require active parental consent for required instruction.

These parental notification, preview, and exemption requirements only apply to the comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education unit referenced in Site Operations Circular No. 1005. These requirements *do not apply* to other instruction or materials that discuss gender, sexual orientation, or family life and do not discuss reproductive organs and their functions (§ 51932.b). For more information about these particular topics, please refer to CA Ed Code regarding Comprehensive Health Education (§§ 51880-51921) and Required Courses of Study (§ 51204.5). For additional information or guidance, please contact Sophia Arredondo in the Office of Youth Advocacy at sarredondo@sandi.net.

Parent Preview meetings may be conducted at school sites so that parents/guardians can review instructional materials. The meetings may be held in conjunction with Open House or other scheduled school events. If a site decides not to hold a formal preview, parents/guardians must still be provided an opportunity to review materials prior to instruction. Information and materials for the preview are available from the Sexual Health Education Program. Please email Nita Vjaters at jvjaters@sandi.net two weeks prior to your scheduled Parent Preview meeting to ensure delivery of materials.

If your site is using educational programs or materials that address sexual health or HIV prevention that is *different* from the district's approved curriculum, these materials must be approved by the Sexual Health Education Advisory Committee prior to use. Contact Rachel Miller at rmiller@sandi.net or (619) 725-7121 to request a curriculum review.

If additional information is needed, please contact Scott Giusti at (619) 725-7126.

Scott Giusti
Director, Sexual Health Education Program

APPROVED:



Cheryl Hibbeln
Executive Director
Office of Secondary Schools

Distribution: Lists D, E, F, I, and K