

The board is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The board recognizes the primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents as provided in this policy. The comprehensive health education program provided by the school system will meet the requirements of the Basic Education Program (BEP), G.S. 115C-81(e1), and aligned state-adopted standards. The board may, in its discretion, expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.

A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

A comprehensive health education program must be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage, STDs, the human reproductive system, preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

B. PARENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND WITHHOLD CONSENT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center of each school where these subjects will be taught.

The principal or designee shall also notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child's participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction or in specific topics such as STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Parents may also withhold consent to student participation in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy. Any parent wishing to withhold consent must do so in writing to the principal.

C. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION

For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional objectives and only use the age-appropriate materials that have been made available to parents for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education or other field authorized by law.

A determination of what is an appropriate education for a student with disabilities must be made in accordance with the student's individualized education plan, following all procedures as provided in the North Carolina *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*.

Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 9; 115C-36, -81(e1); State Board of Education Policies GCS-D-000, GCS-F-007; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, available at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities>

Cross References:

Adopted: July 15, 1999
Amended: May 13, 2010
Amended: February 25, 2014
Amended: February 11, 2016

**Cherokee County Schools
Comprehensive Health Education Program
Permission to Participate**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Cherokee County Schools is committed to providing students with accurate information and education that encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior.

As required by state law, age appropriate reproductive health and safety education will be taught in seventh through ninth grades and will include the following topics: sexual abstinence until marriage, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), the human reproductive system, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy, and awareness of sexual assault, abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Health teachers shall follow the instructional objectives provided by the state and only use age-appropriate materials. The objectives and materials used for instruction will be made available at the media center at your child's school if you wish to review them.

Parents have the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child's participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction or in specific topics.

Please sign below and indicate whether or not your child may participate in the reproductive health and safety education program provided during Health/PE classes. If you have any questions, you may contact the principal or Health/PE teacher at your child's school.

Student's Name: _____

Student Grade Level: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

_____ Yes, my child MAY participate

_____ No, my child MAY NOT participate