

## **Human Sexuality, AIDS/HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Health Education**

MESD shall provide an appropriate age-level comprehensive plan of instruction focusing on human sexuality, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and disease (STD) prevention in MESD schools as an integral part of health education and other appropriate subjects.

Course material and instruction for all human sexuality education courses that discuss human sexuality shall enhance student's understanding of sexuality as a normal and healthy aspect of human development. A part of the comprehensive plan of instruction shall provide age-appropriate child sexual abuse prevention instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The district must provide a minimum of four instructional sessions annually; one instruction session is equal to one standard class period. In addition, the HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and disease prevention education and the human sexuality education comprehensive plan shall provide adequate instruction at least annually, for all students in grades 6 through 8 and at least twice during grades 9 through 12.

MESD school administrators shall work with parents, teachers, other school administrators, local health departments, other community representatives, persons from the medical community, and those staff who are knowledgeable of the latest scientific information and effective education strategies who may assist in the development of the plan of instruction aligned with the Oregon Health Education Standards and Benchmarks.

The Board shall approve the plan of instruction and require that it be reviewed and updated biennially in accordance with new scientific information and effective educational strategies.

Parents of minor students shall be notified in advance of any human sexuality, AIDS/HIV and STD instruction by the MESD. Any parent may request that his/her child be excused from that portion of the instructional program under the procedures set forth in ORS 336.035 (2).

The comprehensive plan of instruction shall include information that:

1. Promotes abstinence for school age youth and mutually monogamous relationships with an uninfected partner for adults;
2. Allays fears concerning HIV that are scientifically groundless;
3. Is balanced and medically accurate;
4. Provides balanced and accurate information and skills-based instruction on risks and benefits of contraceptives, condoms and other disease reduction measures;

5. Discusses responsible sexual behaviors and hygienic practices which may reduce or eliminate unintended pregnancy, exposure to HIV, hepatitis B/C and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases;
6. Discusses high-risk behaviors such as the sharing of needles or syringes for injecting illegal drugs and controlled substances;
7. Discusses the characteristics of the emotional, physical and psychological aspects of a healthy relationship;
8. Discusses the benefits of delaying pregnancy beyond the adolescent years as a means to better ensure a healthy future for parents and their children. Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding both the health benefits and the possible side effects of all forms of contraceptives including the success and failure rates for prevention of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and diseases;
9. Stresses that HIV/STDs and Hepatitis B/C can be serious possible hazards of sexual contact;
10. Provides students with information about Oregon laws that address young people's rights and responsibilities relating to childbearing and parenting;
11. Advises students of consequences of having sexual relations with persons younger than 18 years of age to whom they are not married;
12. Encourages family communication and involvement and helps students learn to make responsible, respectful and healthy decisions;
13. Teaches that no form of sexual expression or behavior is acceptable when it physically or emotional harms oneself or others and that it is wrong to take advantage of or exploit another person;
14. Teaches that consent is an essential component of healthy sexual behavior;
15. Teaches students how to identify and respond to attitudes and behaviors which contribute to sexual violence;
16. Validates the importance of ones' honesty, respect, and responsibility for ones' actions;
17. Uses inclusive materials and strategies that recognizes different sexual orientation, gender identities and gender roles expression;
18. Includes information about relevant community resources, how to access these resources and the laws that protect the rights of minors to anonymously access these resources.

The comprehensive plan of instruction shall emphasize skill-based instruction that:

1. Assists students to develop and practice effective communication skills, development of self esteem and ability to resist peer pressure;

2. Provides students with the opportunity to learn about and personalize peer, media, technology and community influences that both positively and negatively impact their attitudes and decisions related to healthy sexuality, relationships and sexual behaviors, including decisions to abstain from sexual intercourse;
3. Enhances students' ability to access valid health information and resources related to their sexual health;
4. Teaches students how to develop and communicate sexual and reproductive boundaries ;
5. Is research based, evidence based or best practices; and
6. Aligns with the Oregon Health Education Content Standards and Benchmarks.

All sexuality education programs emphasize that abstinence from sexual intercourse, when practiced consistently and correctly, is the only 100 percent effective method against unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted HIV and hepatitis B/C infection and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

Abstinence is to be stressed, but not to the exclusion of contraceptives and condoms for preventing unintended pregnancy, HIV infection, hepatitis B/C infection and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases. Such courses are to acknowledge the value of abstinence while not devaluing or ignoring those students who have had or are having sexual relationships. Further, sexuality education materials, including instructional strategies, and activities shall not, in any way use shame or fear-based tactics.

Materials and information shall be presented in a manner sensitive to the fact that there are students who have experienced, perpetrated or witnessed sexual abuse and relationship violence.

END OF POLICY

---

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 336.035](#)  
[ORS 336.107](#)  
[ORS 336.455 to -336.475](#)

[ORS 339.370 to -339.400](#)  
[OAR 581-022-0705](#)

[OAR 581-022-1440](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1910](#)