

Pittsfield School District

HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

Consistent with Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, and related topics will be included in the instructional program.

Instruction must be appropriate to the grade level, course of study, and development of students and must occur in a systematic manner. The superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing in-service training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians will have the right to inspect and review health and physical instruction materials which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents and legal guardians shall be notified by e-mail, other written means, website / social media postings or phone call, not less than two weeks in advance of the use of curriculum course material to be used for instruction of human sexuality or human sexual education, that the material is available for inspection at the school. The notice will identify and provide contact information for the staff member or faculty that the parents or guardians should contact to arrange for an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material.

Parents/guardians who wish to review or inspect health and physical education materials may arrange a meeting with the administration to review the materials.

Parents/guardians, or students over eighteen years of age, who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious reasons or religious objections are allowed to have their child opt-out of such instruction.

Parents/guardians who wish to have their child opt-out of such instruction are required to make their request in writing to the administration and state the particular unit of curriculum or lesson of instruction in which the student is not to participate. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state requirements for health education. The alternative assignment will be provided by the health or physical education teacher in consultation with the administration.

Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights statute, as a school district that receives federal Department of Education funds, the district makes available for inspection any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The procedures established by the district provide reasonable access to instructional materials within a reasonable period of time after such a request is received.

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