FAMILY LIFE/SEX EDUCATION

The Board believes that the schools should provide information about family life and sex education in order to help students acquire factual knowledge, skills and attitudes that will result in behavior that contributes to the well being of the individual, the family and society.

Parents have the prime responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The school should support and supplement parental efforts to provide a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss the moral and practical concerns, issues and attitudes inherent in family life and sexual behavior.

The district shall teach about family life and sex education in regular courses on anatomy, physiology, health, consumer and family studies, and science. If a separate family life or sex education program is developed, it shall be a non-required course. Any planned curriculum that includes instruction concerning human sexuality shall be based on scientifically-researched content standards in accordance with state law.

In addition to the requirements listed below, the customary policies and regulations concerning the approval of new curriculum content, units and materials shall apply to any course(s) dealing with family life and sex education offered by the district.

1. The basic curriculum and instructional materials to be used in the family life/sex education program shall be available for inspection during school hours upon request by any member of the public. A forum to receive comments from the public concerning the basic curriculum and instructional materials used in the family life/sex education program shall be scheduled prior to Board adoption.

2. Parents/Guardians of all students shall be notified in writing prior to the student’s involvement in a family life/sex education unit of instruction. The notice to parents/guardians shall include a detailed, substantive outline of the topics to be presented in the portion of the planned curriculum that concerns family life/sex education. If the request for the exemption is from a specific portion of the family life/sex education curriculum that concerns human sexuality, no reason must be given by the parent/guardian when requesting exemption.

3. Students for whom parents/guardians have submitted a signed exemption form shall be excluded from involvement in those portions of the family life/sex education curriculum specified by parents/guardians. If a student is granted an exemption, an alternative educational assignment shall be arranged.

4. Each school shall give parents/guardians so requesting an opportunity to review the materials to be used and participate in a conference with the instructor and principal in order to assist the parent/guardian in determining whether to request an exemption for the student from a specific portion or the planned instruction.

5. Teachers may invite community-based speakers to enhance the health education curriculum by presenting timely and appropriate information on topics covered in the learning materials. Such speakers must be approved in advance by a committee of health educators and district administrators and will be listed in the health teachers’ resource guide. The guide will be updated regularly. It shall be the responsibility of the health
teacher to prepare the students for, and follow up on, presentations by community-based speakers.

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

Adopted May 5, 1993
Revised June 4, 2008
Revised October 21, 2009

Legal Refs: C.R.S. 22-1-110.5 (education regarding human sexuality)
C.R.S. 22-25-106 (4) (local comprehensive health education programs)
C.R.S. 22-25-110 (2)(b) (exemption procedure required)
20 U.S.C. 7906 (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

Cross Refs: IGA, Curriculum Development
IGD, Curriculum Adoption
IHAM, Health Education
KEC, Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials