

School Health Education Topics Notification and Opt-Out Protocol

Objective: To inform families/guardians about the health education topics scheduled to be delivered in schools and establish a process for families/guardians to opt their child out of specific topics while ensuring compliance with Rhode Island General Laws §§ 16-1-5, 16-22-17, and 16-22-18.

Protocol:

1. Notification of Health Education Topics:

- At the beginning of each school year, the health teacher(s) shall provide families/guardians with directions to access the health education topics scheduled for their class for the academic year. This notification shall include where to find information on the content, curriculum topic schedule, and objectives of each topic in Canvas.
- The notification shall be sent electronically, ensuring families/guardians can access the information quickly. The principal or their designee will send hard copies to families who have notified the school that they require hard copies.

2. Transparency and Accessibility:

- The school district shall maintain a dedicated section on its website, known as the "Health Education Curriculum," where families/guardians can access detailed information about the health education curriculum.
- This page shall be regularly updated to reflect the current curriculum and teaching materials.

3. Opt-Out Procedure:

- Families/guardians who wish to opt their child out of specific health education topics, as permitted by Rhode Island law, must follow this procedure:
 - a. Submit a written notification to the principal of the child's school specifying the topic(s) from which the child is to be opted out.
 - b. The written notification must include the child's name, grade level, and the specific topic(s) for which the opt-out is requested.
 - c. The principal shall acknowledge receipt of the opt-out request in writing.

4. Confidentiality and Privacy:

- The school district shall ensure the confidentiality and privacy of families/guardians who opt their child out of specific topics.
- Teachers and school staff shall not disclose the identity of students who have opted out, beyond those who work on the alternative learning plan, and their participation in other aspects of the curriculum shall not be affected.

5. Alternative Learning Opportunities:

- Families/guardians who opt their child out of specific topics shall be provided with information about alternative learning opportunities that align with the child's grade level and educational needs.

6. Compliance with State Laws:

- The school district shall comply with all applicable Rhode Island General Laws, including §§ 16-1-5, 16-22-17, and 16-22-18, pertaining to health education and opt-out policies.

7. Annual Review and Updates:

- The school district shall conduct an annual review of the Health Education Topics Notification and Opt-Out Protocol to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with state laws.
- Updates and revisions, if necessary, shall be communicated to families/guardians and posted on the Health Education Curriculum Page.

8. Communication and Engagement:

- The school district shall engage in ongoing communication with families/guardians to address any questions or concerns related to the health education curriculum and the opt-out process.

9. Record Keeping:

- The school district shall maintain records of opt-out requests and acknowledgments for documentation and compliance purposes.

By implementing this School Health Education Topics Notification and Opt-Out Protocol, the school district aims to provide families/guardians with transparency, choice, and compliance with relevant state laws regarding health education curriculum and opt-out policies.