Puyallup School District

Human Growth and Development, HIV/AIDS Curriculum Preview

**Purpose:** Parents or guardians of elementary students in grades four through six and of junior high students in grades seven through nine are invited to preview the school district’s approved sexual health and HIV/AIDS curriculum.

**Laws and policies pertaining to HGD**

HGD/Sexuality Curriculum is divided into two categories:

**HIV/AIDS Education**

- Required annually by Washington state law starting no later than 5th grade (AIDS Omnibus Act)
- HIV/AIDS prevention education must:
  - Be approved for medical accuracy
  - Address the life-threatening dangers of HIV/AIDS, its transmission, and its prevention
  - Include behaviors that place a person at risk of contracting HIV and methods to avoid such risk

**Everything Else**

- The Healthy Youth Act (RCW: 28A.300.475) requires that when teaching sexual health education, schools must assure that the instruction:
  - Is medically and scientifically accurate.
  - Is age-appropriate.
  - Is appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual orientation.
  - Includes information about abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases

Can be taught 30 days following preview date
Many of our schools wait until later in the year
Check with your teacher regarding the timeline for this curriculum
Washington is one of the few states that allow parents to choose to have their students excluded from this curriculum.

**Curriculum Adopted by the Puyallup SD**

Where to find HGD Curriculum
www.Puyallup.k12.wa.us

In the main menu, select
Departments/Programs
Click on Health & Fitness
**KNOW** Curriculum that teaches about HIV/AIDS was developed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Health. KNOW is a statewide curriculum that was adopted by the Puyallup SD.

**FLASH** Curriculum (Family Life and Sexual Health) – info on the Everything Else comes from the FLASH curriculum.

**Redactions**

While adopting and reviewing these curriculum programs, the PSD has chosen that certain sections will not be taught in our courses. Redactions can be found on the PSD website along with the curriculum.

**Teacher Responses**

Teachers in the Puyallup SD are instructed to follow the curriculum, and to answer questions from a medical, biological, physiological standpoint, not from a philosophical standpoint.

When questions or topics come up in class that are not part of the curriculum or are not age appropriate, teachers are instructed to give something similar to this response:

*Since families have different opinions on this topic, we ask that you go home and find out what your family believes.*

**Choosing to opt out of the curriculum**

Parents can choose to exclude their student from all of the HGD or HIV/AIDS curriculum, or even parts of that curriculum.

After viewing the curriculum, parent can complete the opt-out and return it to their child’s school. Send a copy to Sparks Stadium as well, which will create another contact from our office to the school.

During sexuality lessons, students who have opted-out of the curriculum should be discretely pulled out of class during those times. Each school has a different plan for working with these students. Human Growth and Development lessons are not graded, so the student is not losing out on the grade.

Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher about this if they have questions.

**Contact Information**

Health and Fitness office is located at Sparks Stadium

253-841-8785