

**AIDS INSTRUCTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) poses a public health crisis. At the present time, society's most effective weapon against the spread of this deadly disease is public education.

The number of AIDS cases is steadily increasing. In the course of living their daily lives, our students will come into contact with people who have AIDS. Therefore the district's health education program will include factual information about AIDS and how the disease is transmitted. Students must be told what voluntary behaviors result in infection and also be motivated to prevent infection by making wise decisions in their daily lives.

Instruction must be appropriate to the grade level of the students receiving it. The Board particularly desires that students receive proper AIDS education before they reach the age when they may adopt behaviors which put them at risk of contracting AIDS.

In order for AIDS instruction to be most effective, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff members who will present this instruction receive continuing inservice training which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians and community members should have input into the selection and/or development of instructional materials to be used in AIDS instruction. The curriculum shall be updated regularly.

In the elementary grades, AIDS education shall be provided by the regular classroom teacher and shall be designed principally to allay excessive fears of the epidemic and of becoming infected.

In middle school and high school, AIDS education shall be provided by the health education teacher as part of a comprehensive health education program.

Sufficient classroom time should be provided to fully cover essential knowledge appropriate for each grade level and allow students time to ask questions and discuss issues raised by the information presented.

In cooperation with local health agencies, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a program of orientation and information about AIDS and the AIDS Instructional program for parents/guardians and interested members of the community. This program shall include the opportunity to examine all instructional materials before they are used with our students. (Education Codes 51550, 51820)

**AIDS INSTRUCTION** (continued)

Before students receive AIDS instruction, parents/guardians shall be notified in accordance with state law and Board policy. Alternative study arrangements shall be made for students whose parents/guardians ask that they not receive instruction.

*(cf. 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Material/Library Books)*

*(cf. 6142.1 – Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

51202 Instruction in person and public health and safety

51203 Instruction on narcotics and restricted and dangerous drugs

51240 Excuse from health instruction and family life and sex education due to religious beliefs

51550 Sex education

51820 Venereal disease instruction