



Fall 2022

Dear D114 Families,

There has been much discussion locally and nationally regarding the National Sex Education Standards and their implementation in schools. To view this standard set, please visit:

<https://www.advocatesforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NSES-2020-web-updated2.pdf> Of specific public interest has been the integration of instruction aligned to gender identity starting in the elementary grades and expanded discussion of this topic in the upper grades.

In the state of Illinois, the original legal guidelines (November identified in 105 ILCS 5/27.9 (8/20/21) stated that two choices existed for school districts to consider:

1. No sex education; or
2. NSES aka Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program (105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a)

In other words, this meant an “all or nothing” decision for school districts.

We have now been informed that school districts may provide sex education and NOT fully adopt the NSES. **In partnership with our Board of Education, we have decided to approach this topic with neither a full opt in or opt out, but, rather, a middle ground that we believe reflects our community’s values and the needs of our students. To see exactly what will be taught in Grades 5-8, please click here.**

Districts are required to develop an administrative procedure for a Health Education Program that focuses on a variety of safety topics and specifically sexual abuse, sexual assault awareness, family life, and personal health and safety and sexual health education. Related to these specific topics, families must have advance notice of the content to be taught, the opportunity to review the content and resources, and the option to opt their child(ren) out of instruction with no penalty whatsoever.

**To that end, D114 plans to proceed as follows:**

1. Continue to implement health education in grades 5-8;
2. Comply with the parameters above; and
3. Continue to focus on the standards used prior to 2022-23 (lined above and here); and
4. Not expand specific sexuality based health instruction to lower grades, nor will we add the new topic strands identified in the updated NSES.

We believe that proceeding in this way meets our students' and community's needs in compliance with our legal obligations and in alignment with the updated expectations identified by the state of Illinois for sex education programs.

For our 5th-8th grade families, Mrs Husko, our Health Teacher, will be in contact prior to the unit related to sexual education begins to offer opportunities to review the materials as well as to opt out of this instruction if you feel that is the right decision for your child/family.

I know this is a very important topic, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions whatsoever.

With commitment to our students, staff, families, and community,

*Heather Friziellie*  
Superintendent of Schools