

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Code: IHAM
Policy Committee Review: May 9, 2018 School Board First Read: May 16, 2018 School Board Second Read: June 6, 2018 Policy Committee Review: September 14, 2023 School Board First Read: September 20, 2023 School Board Second Read/Adoption: October 4, 2023	Page 1 of 1 Category: Priority

HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION

Consistent with Department of Education requirements, health education, including instruction about anatomy, reproduction, and related topics, will be included in the curriculum.

Instruction must be appropriate to grade level or course of study, and development of students and must occur in a systematic manner. Parents/guardians will have the right and review health curriculum which will be made reasonably accessible to parents/guardians and others to the extent practicable.

Parents/guardians who wish to review curricular materials may arrange a meeting with the Principal to review the materials.

Parents and legal guardians shall be notified by e-mail or other written means, not less than two (2) weeks in advance of use of the curriculum course material to be used for instruction of human growth and development or sexual health education, that the material is available for review at the school. The notice will identify and provide contact information for the member of staff or faculty whom a parent or guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to review the curriculum course material.

Opt-Out Procedure and Form

Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health education instruction for religious reasons, or personal values are allowed to have their child opt-out of such instruction. Students over eighteen years of age can also choose to opt-out.

Parents/guardians who wish to have their child opt-out of such instruction are required to complete the district opt-out form and state the unit of curriculum in which the student is not to participate. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian under this policy may be given an alternative assignment. The alternative assignment will be provided by the health education teacher in conjunction with the Principal.

Opt-Out-Forms are available from either the Principal or the District Website.

Opt-out requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted.

In accordance with federal Protection of Pupil Rights statute, as a School District that receives federal Department of Education funds, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to allow parent/guardian of a student to review any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The procedures will provide reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

Cross Reference:

IHAM-R – Health and Sex Education Exemption: Opt-Out Form

Legal References:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.40, Health Education Program
RSA 186:11, IX-b, Health and Sex Education
RSA 186:11, IX-c & IX-e – Notice to Parents/Guardian Required