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Statement of.....

## Policy and Responsibility

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SUBJECT: HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION/MATURATION POLICY

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### Human Sexuality Education/Maturation Policy

The Murray School District believes that sex education is the primary responsibility of a student's parents/guardians/primary care givers. However, the district also recognizes the need and importance of providing appropriate, supportive and factual curriculum for students. In order to ensure the curriculum in Murray schools meets standards of accuracy and appropriateness, the following curriculum review process has been established.

A human sexuality curriculum materials review committee will be established. The committee is guided by Utah state law, Utah State Board of Education core curriculum guidelines, and policies of the Board. The committee will include parents, health professionals, school health educators, and administrators, with at least as many parents as school employees. The committee will assure accurate and up-to-date information by:

- Reviewing and approving all instructional materials, speakers, special programs, and resource agencies used in any human sexuality presentations or discussions.
- Reviewing periodically previously approved materials for medical accuracy of information.
- Hearing appeals, complaints, or other special matters pertaining to existing human sexuality education programs, policies, or materials that have not been resolved at a local level.
- Generating a standard parental permission form to be used in all schools for human sexuality education including contraception and HIV/AIDS education.
- Submitting to the Board the proposed committee membership for approval by April of each year.
- Submitting an annual written report to the Board by June 1 each year.
- Updating annually the "Approved Materials List" and providing a copy of the list to schools no later than August 1.
- Requiring annually that all committee members, teachers and administrators complete a compliance form generated by the committee verifying that this policy has been read and will be followed.

Human Sexuality/Maturation education will include the following practices.

A. Curriculum

1. The District adheres to the Utah State Health Core Curriculum (elementary/secondary) guidelines concerning human development and relationships which include:

- a. Demonstration of healthy expressions regarding interpersonal relationships.
  - b. Development of ways to manage and/or adapt to changes in relationships.
  - c. Demonstration of the ability to manage unhealthy or dangerous relationships or situations.
  - d. Summarization of the physical, social, and emotional changes that occur during adolescence.
  - e. Determination of how abstinence from sexual activity can enhance the development of relationships.
2. In addition, the following guidelines will be followed concerning curriculum:
- a. The following will be included in the curriculum: personal values such as accountability, self-restraint, integrity, caring, and respect for others.
  - b. The curriculum will also reinforce value programs adopted by the district that address family, caring, responsibility, respect and trust.
  - c. Sexual abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage will be emphasized.
  - d. Schools will instruct students about sexually transmitted diseases, appropriate to grade levels.
  - e. The district will develop a process for implementing parental/guardian review and consent prior to instruction of the AIDS standards and objectives.
3. The following topics will not be taught in Murray schools, as per state rule R277-474, School Instruction and Human Sexuality.
- a. The intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation, erotic behavior;
  - b. The advocacy or encouragement of contraceptive methods or devices;
  - c. The advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity.
4. Educators may respond to spontaneous student questions for the purpose of providing accurate data or correcting inaccurate or misleading information or comments made by students in class regarding human sexuality. Murray District also adheres to the policy of the Utah State Board of Education which requires that:
- a. An educator may not intentionally elicit comments or questions about matters subject to parental/guardian consent requirements.
    - 1. Responses permitted must be brief, factual, objective, and in harmony with content requirements of the policy regarding the importance of marriage and the family, abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity after marriage.
    - 2. Responses must be appropriate to the age and maturity of the students involved, and limited in scope, to what is reasonably necessary under the circumstances.
    - 3. Students shall then be referred to their parents/guardians for further information.
    - 4. A response made in compliance with the requirements of this section shall not be considered to be a violation of the parental/guardian consent requirement of this policy.

**B. Training**

- 1. All educators that teach any topics concerning human sexuality are required to be in compliance with the guidelines and procedures in the district human sexuality education policy and state rule R277-474.
- 2. Newly hired or newly assigned educators with responsibility for any aspect of human sexuality instruction will attend a state-sponsored professional development outlining the human sexuality curriculum and the criteria for human sexuality instruction.

C. Parental Input & School Responsibility

1. In order to emphasize strong parent/student communication concerning human sexuality education issues, educators must provide parents/guardians with a human sexuality curriculum outline, when the unit will start and end, and provide school related opportunities for parent/guardian/student discussion at home.
2. Parental/guardian consent must be obtained for any student to participate in Human Sexuality/Maturation education or related curriculum, and parents/guardians reserve the right to remove their student from those courses or educational activities at any time. District Human Sexuality/Maturation curriculum resources will be available upon request regardless of student participation in the school-based program.
3. Utah educators will individually keep a record of parent and community complaints, comments, and the educator's responses regarding human sexuality instruction programs.