



Parents,

Please be advised that an age-appropriate human sexuality and responsibility unit focusing on health, safety and well-being is taught to all Austin ISD students. The unit is taught to students in kindergarten through eighth grade in May and during a specific unit in the high school health education course. During 2018-19, Austin ISD's Board of Trustees voted to revise the Human Sexuality and Responsibility Scope and Sequence for grades three through eight. As a result, staff have rewritten the third through fifth grade lessons to align to the recently approved scope and sequence. The community reviewed and provided feedback on the lessons. AISD revised the lessons based on the community's feedback. Currently, the middle school lessons are being rewritten and will be available for review and feedback in September. Families will be notified about how to access the draft lessons and how to provide feedback on the middle school lessons. The AISD Board of Trustees is expected to vote on all of the rewritten third through eighth grade lessons during the October Board Regular Board Meeting. The kindergarten through second grade and high school scope and sequences or lessons have not been revised at this time.

### **Content Summary**

The district's human sexuality and responsibility curriculum provides information and skill development for students in kindergarten through grade twelve so that they may reach their highest potential for physical, emotional, mental and social health. The unit addresses the [National Sexuality Education Standards](#) including healthy relationships, personal safety, identity, anatomy and physiology, puberty, reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. Topics are introduced and presented at age-appropriate grade levels. As required by state law and [AISD Board Policy EHAA](#) (Legal) and (Local), abstinence will remain a focus of all appropriate grade level lessons and, where applicable, contraceptives and condom use will be taught in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates. The [AISD Health Education webpage](#) provides the scope and sequence/unit overviews by grade level, a copy of this letter, links to opt-out letters and other related resources.

### **Curriculum Review**

All current curriculum materials used in human sexuality instruction are available in each campus library for reasonable public inspection (Education Code 28.004[j]). Parents will have ample opportunity to preview all instructional materials, including any updates and modifications to the materials. Audio-visual materials, as applicable, will be made accessible to parents following a written request to the principal. If approved, the third through eighth grade lessons will also be available for viewing in the Parent Cloud.

Prior to the implementation of the sexuality education program, the principal will conduct at least one orientation session for families. At this meeting, parents will have an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum and ask questions.

Parents/legal guardians will receive reasonable written notice of the time and location of the orientation session at their student's school. The orientation will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for parents/legal guardians. High schools will have their orientation during the fall



semester before the unit is taught. Elementary and middle school orientation sessions will be scheduled during the spring semester before the unit is taught.

A parent/legal guardian will be permitted to observe any class during the human sexuality and responsibility unit so long as they provide reasonable advance notice to the principal and teacher and the observation does not disrupt instruction.

Campus Advisory Councils (CACs) or campus committees comprised of teachers, parents/guardians, staff and secondary students may be involved in planning the campus implementation of the program, such as when to teach the unit and who will teach the lessons on their campus.

Under [AISD Board Policy EHAA](#) (Legal) and (Local), the [School Health Advisory Council](#) (SHAC) shall review and make recommendations to the district about any changes to the current human sexuality curriculum or any new program to be implemented. On an annual basis, the SHAC shall review the health education curriculum, including human sexuality education.

### **Student Exemption from Unit**

A student may be exempted from all or part of the human sexuality and responsibility curriculum upon written request to the principal by the parent or legal guardian of the student. Campuses will send an opt-out letter home three weeks prior to instruction for this purpose. The opt-out letter will include lesson topics. Students who are exempted will be provided alternative lessons that support social and emotional learning. Students will not be punished in any manner for nonparticipation.

In granting the exemption from all or part of this curriculum, the district hopes that families will provide human sexuality education to their children. The district's Office of Academics and Social and Emotional Learning can be a resource to any parent wanting to provide instruction directly to their child in the home.

### **Opportunities for Parent Involvement**

Parents may attend SHAC meetings and offer suggestions for the development/revision of the curriculum during the public comments/citizen's communications portions of the meeting or in writing submitted to SHAC. More information may be found on the [SHAC website](#).

Please visit the [AISD Health Education webpage](#) for possible updates regarding opportunities for your involvement concerning the human sexuality and responsibility curriculum. Please contact your principal if you have any questions.

