The Columbia County Sex Education Parent Review Committee would like to thank the Columbia County Board of Education for the opportunity to serve the students and teachers of Columbia County.

PART I: MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee understands its mission is to review all sex/AIDS education instructional materials that may be used in the Columbia County School System and make recommendations concerning age/grade level use. The recommendations of the Committee must be approved by the Board of Education before implementation.

The Committee further understands that instructors for each course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention shall include in their instructional materials only the materials which have been approved by the Board of Education upon recommendation by this Committee.

The Committee defines “instructional materials” as anything the teacher might use with the students in the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, all printed material, all audios, all videos, all visual materials, films and slides, all contraceptive devices and instruction pertaining to their use, all models of genitalia, and any other items brought into the classroom as part of the curriculum or its delivery.

The committee also defines “instructional materials” as including guest speakers brought into the classroom to speak on a topic related to sex/AIDS education instruction. The Committee recognizes the problem a teacher might encounter in getting approval for a guest speaker several months in advance, and thus proposes the following:

A guest speaker whose name has not been brought before this Committee in its regular meetings prior to and at the beginning of the school year will be considered “recommended” by this Committee only if all of the following conditions are met.

- The teacher presents to the Principal a written outline of the guest speaker’s intended speech;
- The teacher also presents to the Principal all instructional materials as defined above that the guest intends to use in the presentation in the classroom;
- The Principal, upon examining the proposed outline and instructional materials, gives written permission to the teacher to have this guest speaker; and,
- The Principal forwards a copy of his written permission and of the speaker’s outline to the Director of Student Learning.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In compliance with SBOE rule 160-4-2-12, the Committee recommends that all instruction in sex education and AIDS prevention shall emphasize abstinence from sexual activity until marriage and fidelity in marriage as important personal goals.
The Committee further recommends that all sex education instruction in all grades uphold Georgia law.

The Committee specifically does not recommend for any age or grade level any of the following.

- Any model of genitalia
- Any display or demonstration in the classroom of any birth control device whatsoever.

This committee recommends that whenever gender-sensitive instruction and/or materials are used, males and females shall be taught separately for all grades up to and including the eighth grade.

The Committee recommends that the fifth grade objectives shall be taught by the school nurses with the students appropriately separated by sexes and the teacher present at all times.

The Committee recommends that the sixth through eighth grade objectives shall be taught by the physical education/health teachers with the students appropriately separated by sexes. The sixth grade curriculum will include the objectives about the students’ own sex. The seventh grade curriculum will include the objectives about the students’ own sex and will introduce the objectives about the other sex. The eighth grade curriculum will include all of the sex education objectives. The class will be taught by a teacher of the same sex.

The Committee recommends that the high school objectives shall be taught in a coed class by the physical education/health teachers unless a student requests being taught in a same sex classroom. The school will arrange for the same sex classroom as appropriate.

The committee recommends that at least two weeks prior to the beginning of any sex/AIDS education instruction, the parent(s) or guardian of each child scheduled to receive such instruction be provided with written notice informing the parent(s) or guardian of their right to choose, in writing, that their child or ward not receive such instruction. The Committee further recommends that such written notice contain information of the topics to be covered in this particular instruction, as well as the right of the parent or guardian to preview all instructional materials.

The current parent letters was reviewed and revised as attached.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Grade 5

Grades 6-8

Grades 9-12
The Columbia County School System extends its warmest thanks to the members of this committee.

Originally Adopted: March 12, 2002

Revised: August 8, 2002

Revised: March 14, 2017 (update of instructional materials only)
Dear Elementary School Parents:

The Science/Health instructional program for fifth grade contains some objectives relating to human growth and development. These objectives are a part of the units on safety, growth and development, disease prevention, and family living.

The instructional materials to be used by the school nurse in teaching the objectives relating to human growth and development have been approved by a parent review committee and the Columbia County Board of Education. The classes will be taught separately by sexes by the school nurse. You are encouraged to discuss the class with your student before and/or after the class.

As the parent or legal guardian of your child, you have the right to elect, in writing, that your child not participate in this classroom instruction. If you do decide to opt your child out of the human growth and development part of the curriculum, he/she will not be tested on these objectives.

You are encouraged to review a copy of the curriculum and instructional materials by contacting your child’s school or the Department of Student Learning (706-541-2723). If you have questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Principal
Dear Middle School Parents:

The Health instructional program for sixth through eighth grade contains some objectives relating to human growth and development/sex/AIDS education. These objectives are a part of the units on safety, growth and development, disease prevention, and family living.

The instructional materials to be used by the physical education/health teacher in teaching the objectives relating to human growth and development/sex/AIDS education have been approved by a parent review committee and the Columbia County Board of Education. The classes will be taught separately by sexes by a physical education/health teacher of the same sex as the students in the class. You are encouraged to discuss the class with your student before and/or after the class.

As the parent or legal guardian of your child, you have the right to elect, in writing, that your child not participate in this classroom instruction. If you do decide to opt your child out of the human growth and development/sex/AIDS education part of the curriculum, he/she will not be tested on these objectives.

You are encouraged to review a copy of the curriculum and instructional materials by contacting your child’s school or the Department of Student Learning (706-541-2723). If you have questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Principal
Dear High School Parents:

The Health instructional program for high school contains some objectives relating to human growth and development/sex/AIDS education. These objectives are a part of the units on safety, growth and development, disease prevention, and family living.

The instructional materials to be used by the physical education/health teachers in teaching the objectives relating to human growth and development/sex/AIDS education have been approved by a parent review committee and the Columbia County Board of Education. You are encouraged to discuss the class with your student before and/or after the unit is taught.

As the parent or legal guardian of your child, you have the right to elect, in writing, that your child not participate in this classroom instruction. If you do decide to opt your child out of the human growth and development/sex/AIDS education part of the curriculum, he/she will not be tested on these objectives.

You are encouraged to review a copy of the curriculum and instructional materials by contacting your child’s school or the Department of Student Learning (706-541-2723). If you have questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Principal