

SHAC Subcommittees for Health and Human Sexuality Frequently Asked Questions

If I am a parent or guardian, do I have to give permission for my student to receive instruction in human sexuality?

Yes, opt in topics such as child abuse, family violence, dating violence, sex trafficking, and human sexuality instruction must all have parent consent. A permission form will be sent out no later than 14 days prior to instruction. Parents must opt in. If a parent chooses not to opt in or a permission form is not returned, students do not receive Human Growth & Development or Human Sexuality Instruction.

Will my student be penalized for not participating in Human Growth and Development (Grades 4 & 5) or Human Sexuality Instruction (High School Health)?

No, there are no consequences or penalties for students who do not receive the instruction. Students are not tested on opt in materials.

Can I view the opt in material before deciding if I want my student to receive the instruction?

Yes, all materials can be previewed prior to your child receiving instruction. When the curriculum is ready, parents may make an appointment to view all materials in person.

Elementary Health

Did the State Board of Education (SBOE) reject all Quaver curriculum?

The state did not officially adopt any health resource for elementary. The subcommittee reviewed the Quaver and CATCH curriculums because these curriculums met the greatest number of state standards out of any resource. The subcommittee determined that Quaver met 100% of the state standards.

Elementary Human Growth and Development (opt in)

How will students receive Human Growth & Development instruction in 4th & 5th grades?

The Human Growth and Development instructional videos are presented through a pre-recorded video by a male or female district nurse. The same instructional materials are used in both 4th- and 5th-grades. Girls and boys receive instruction separately, and parents must opt in for students to receive instruction.

Are the Human Growth & Development videos (4th & 5th grades) the same as the year before?

Yes. The SHAC committee recommends using the current videos, with additions to meet new TEKS requirements.

Has CFISD considered not separating boys and girls (grades 4 and 5) for human growth and development?

SHAC recommendations and community feedback indicated a preference for separating the two groups.

What are the details about ‘significant milestones of fetal development’?

In the videos, significant milestones of fetal development are described through details such as the length, weight, and development of the embryo or fetus.

High School Health

Who will have access to the high school Health textbook?

Class sets of textbooks will be purchased for each health classroom. Students will access information in the textbook under the direction of the classroom teacher.

What resources did G-W use to write the textbook? If these resources were good, what credentials does the subcommittee have to consider making these changes?

The subcommittee recognizes the G-W health textbook is published based on information from medical entities but is requesting the curriculum writing team to adjust the delivery of the information to reflect the diverse CFISD community.

How is the social emotional component addressed in the curriculum?

All content in the curriculum aligns with state standards. The TEKS indicate a student is responsible for understanding “strategies to develop socio-emotional health, self-regulation, and healthy relationships.” The student is expected to understand the dynamics of healthy relationships, communicate effectively with others, and evaluate conflict resolution techniques.

What did the subcommittee recommend regarding the vaccination information?

The subcommittee recommended that data regarding vaccine information should be updated annually. Included in the subcommittee's discussions were Texas law and exemptions concerning vaccines.

High School Human Sexuality Instruction (OPT IN)

How will students receive human sexuality instruction in high school?

The human sexuality instruction lessons are specified in the Health course scope and sequence. Students who are not participating in the opt in curriculum will be regrouped during the presentation of these lessons and provided alternative assignments. Students are not tested on opt in materials.

Does CFISD teach absence curriculum?

Yes, CFISD follows all requirements regarding human sexuality instruction as outlined by TEA by presenting “abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior.” Texas supports sexually abstinence-based programs, and that is reflected in the TEKS. State standards also require students to analyze the effectiveness of risks and failure rates of barrier protection and other contraceptives, including how they work to reduce STI's and pregnancies.

Who will have access to the Health companion text (OPT IN materials)?

The companion text of opt in materials will be accessible to students only during the opt in portion of instruction and only to students whose parent has given permission to participate in opt in instruction.

How will the curriculum reach students who are sexually active?

The G-W text promotes abstinence yet provides empathy and support systems for students who are sexually active.

How can students be supported if the idea of abstinence is not taught in their home?

Abstinence is presented as the safest and healthiest option for students. The textbook does present students with information needed, if they do choose to become sexually active, so that they can protect themselves in the safest and healthiest manner.

Why is marriage included in the materials?

The TEKS state, "The student understands the characteristics of healthy romantic relationships. The student is expected to identify character traits that promote healthy dating/romantic relationships and marriage."

Is plan B discussed in contraception?

Plan B is not included in the recommended material.

Does the textbook list any updated laws concerning abortion?

The book does not mention abortion or termination, and those terms are not in the state standards (TEKS).

What is considered 'the beginning of life'?

The state standards do not use the term 'beginning of life' and this terminology is not included in the recommended materials.