

Policy Name: Classified Personnel Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

Policy Code: 8.05B

Date Adopted: R/A 5/21/12

Recognizing the incidence of HIV positive and AIDS cases in Arkansas is increasing, the Wynne Public Schools affirms its belief in education as a major weapon in combating the lack of knowledge, the discrimination against victims and the spread of this disease and directs the teaching of accurate, current and "age appropriate" information provided by health care professionals and teachers of health education to all Wynne Public School students.

A School Health Advisory Committee will be established in the Wynne School District. This committee will determine HIV/AIDS issues which will involve appropriate advice from legal and health care professionals sensitive to issues of confidentiality. The School Health Advisory Committee will be composed of, but not limited to, a local physician, two (2) central office administrators, two (2) building level administrators, and a school nurse. On a case by case basis, the parent of the student (if a minor), the infected individual and the individual's physician will meet with the School Health Advisory Committee, provide relevant information as needed and function as an integral part of the committee decision making process. The committee will have the following responsibilities:

1. To ensure that the district complies with all applicable state and federal laws regarding HIV/AIDS.
2. To ensure that when a person with HIV/AIDS has been identified *in* the school setting, the School Superintendent or contact person notifies the Arkansas Department of Education before any action *is* taken by the Wynne District.
3. To interact directly with the Advisory Board at the state level to develop a plan of action which maintains confidentiality, ensuring the privacy rights of learners of all ages and employees.
4. To ensure the identity of a student/employee who has a communicable disease, but does not pose a risk to other students or the educational staff in the school setting, such as being infected with the AIDS virus will be confined to those persons with a direct need to know. Any disclosure will be made with individual or parental consent (if a minor) and confidentiality will be maintained in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (34 CFR Part 99).
5. To aid in making known that students/employees with special health problems may be considered handicapped under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such they are protected against discrimination and entitled to a free appropriate public education which would include identification of health problems which impact learning, implementation of an individualized education plan and communication with the primary classroom teacher and primary health care provider.
6. To ensure that the following educational programs are implemented in the Wynne School district:
 - * All Junior High School students will receive age appropriate instruction about sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS through human growth and development instruction which is taught in grade 6 physical education classes each year. An entire unit is also taught to all seventh graders in a required health class. Senior High School students will receive specific, age appropriate instruction about sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and information on how HIV may be transmitted through the sharing of drug needles and syringes. Also, instruction will be provided as to how drugs may decrease inhibitions and lower the effectiveness of the immune system. This is taught in the health and Science classes.
 - * Students in the elementary grades will receive instruction in sexual health and responsibility including age appropriate information about anatomy and physiology; specific information about sexually transmitted diseases; and the implications of substance abuse relevant to HIV/AIDS.
 - * School personnel, both certified and Classified, will receive inservice training by appropriate HIV/AIDS trained personnel. Such in service will include the etiology, transmission, and prevention of the disease; community resources for referral and information; and standard practices and universal precautionary procedures to be utilized in the school setting in order to protect the health of both students and employees.

- 7. To ensure that the following additional regulations/guidelines are implemented in the school setting:**
- * Situations involving HIV/AIDS infected individuals will be handled on a case by case basis.**
 - * The School Health Advisory Committee will work with all appropriate individuals to determine the most appropriate educational program/work setting for a student/employee identified as having HIV/AIDS. If necessary, the Committee will submit the case to the AIDS Advisory Committee of the State Department of Education for a recommendation with regard to the student/employee. A student's educational program will be reviewed regularly to determine whether a change to educational placement is required.**
 - * At all times, the Committee will function with the welfare of the affected student/employee in mind, protecting his/her rights while ensuring the protection of the health of the general school population. A specific spokesperson, the Superintendent or his/her designee, will be named by the District to be responsible for public relations and any possible press releases.**