

Human Sexuality Instruction for Atlanta ISD

In 2008, the Atlanta ISD School Health Advisory Committee conducted an in-depth research initiative to find the most appropriate curriculum for teaching human sexuality. It was determined by the committee that the district would adopt the Scott and White “Worth the Wait” Curriculum. Parents, teachers and community members participated in the selection of the curriculum making a concerted effort to select one that emphasizes abstinence.

The Texas Education Code 28.004 spells out the requirements for districts:

Before each school year, a school district shall provide written notice to a parent of each student enrolled in the district of the board of trustees' decision regarding whether the district will provide human sexuality instruction to district students.

If instruction will be provided, the notice must include:

(1) a summary of the basic content of the district's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student, including a statement informing the parent of the instructional requirements under state law;

(2) a statement of the parent's right to:

(A) review curriculum materials as provided by Subsection (j); and

(B) remove the student from any part of the district's human sexuality instruction without subjecting the student to any disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction imposed by the district or the student's school; and

(3) information describing the opportunities for parental involvement in the development of the curriculum to be used in human sexuality instruction, including information regarding the local school health advisory council established under Subsection (a).

(i-1) A parent may use the grievance procedure adopted under Section 26.011 concerning a complaint of a violation of Subsection (i).

(j) A school district shall make all curriculum materials used in the district's human sexuality instruction available for reasonable public inspection.

In keeping with the Education Code, Atlanta ISD provides written notification of the human sexuality curriculum in the student handbook that is made available to every student in the district. Human sexuality is taught in the middle school and in the high school. Prior to the teaching of that curriculum parents are mailed a letter outlining the procedures for delivering the curriculum. Parents are given a window of time to come to the school to examine the curriculum and make the decision as to whether they will allow their student to participate in the curriculum activities. Students who are opted out of the curriculum will be provided with an alternative activity in an alternative setting (such as the library). Atlanta ISD will respect the wishes of the parents in this situation.

Questions or concerns may be addressed by the teacher on the campus, the campus principal, the campus counselor or by Mary Dowd, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum.