

## **ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX EDUCATION**

**(ICG June 2011)**

### **Belief**

The \_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The \_\_\_\_\_ School Board is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic.

This School District seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in this School District by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, [Section 37-13-171](#), and by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as “Abstinence-Only” education programs.

The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Only curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice the curricula of Abstinence-Only developed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE’s approved curriculum list.

### **Abstinence-Only Education**

The \_\_\_\_\_ School Board adopts a Mississippi Department of Education approved “Abstinence-Only Education Curriculum” and

1. Requires the implementation of such program and curriculum in the \_\_\_\_\_ School District effective at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year,
2. Requires boys and girls to be separated into different classes when sex-related education is discussed or taught,
3. Prohibits any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby, and
4. Prohibits instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms.

## **Definition**

Abstinence-Only education includes any type of instruction (on a grade and age appropriate basis) that teaches some or all of the following:

- the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity, and the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining;
- the harmful consequences to the child, the child's parents and society that bearing children out of wedlock is likely to produce, including the health, educational, financial and other difficulties the child and his or her parents are likely to face, as well as the inappropriateness of the social and economic burden placed on others;
- that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teaches how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances;
- that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and related health problems;
- the current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support and homosexual activity; and
- that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the only appropriate setting for sexual intercourse.

No program of instruction under this Abstinence-Only curriculum may include anything that contradicts excluded components specified in state law. The instruction program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.

## **Parent's Rights**

Each school providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly or other official setting shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice thereof to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for such instruction or presentation. The notice must also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

## **Procedures**

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall establish procedures to support this policy. The Superintendent will provide the \_\_\_\_\_ School Board with an annual report on the outcomes of the Abstinence-Only education program. If funding is available, this report shall include quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of the program and shall include the perspective of students, teachers, and parents/guardians.

## **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with the Board's policy review process. This policy shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, including but not limited to 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175, as amended and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

## **No Child Left Behind Requirement**

No Child Left Behind prohibits the use of funds authorized under this Act to be used to:

1. Develop or distribute material, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual,
2. Provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, and
3. Operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.

Legal Ref: MS Code 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175

**Sample Policy Disclaimer:** This policy is provided solely as a sample. Any board of education adopting such a policy should use this sample as a framework or starting point and, after carefully reviewing the applicable laws, regulations and state rules, modify the policy as appropriate to meet the needs of the local school system. Any policy should be carefully reviewed by the board of education's legal counsel.