

State Mandated Policy from other states

Iowa

Last Updated: 11/23/2010

Mandate: Code [279.50](#) requires schools to provide age-appropriate and research-based" instruction in human growth and development in grades one through grade 12. "Research-based" is defined in Code [279.50](#) and includes information that is free of racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender biases. Human growth and development instruction includes human sexuality, interpersonal relationships, HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The school accreditation standards, [281 IAC 12.5](#) requires kindergarten programs to include development of life skills and human growth and development;" elementary programs to include prevention and control of disease, and the characteristics of communicable diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome;" grades 7-8 to include prevention and control of disease and the characteristics of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases and acquired immune deficiency syndrome;" and grades 9-12 to include, in the mandated one-unit of health education, instruction in sexually transmitted diseases and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, human sexuality, and interpersonal relationships. Code [256.11](#) specifies that the required high school course shall include family life; age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development and prevention and control of disease, including age-appropriate and research-based information regarding sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome." Research-based" is defined in [279.50](#).

Curriculum Content: The state does not require or suggest that schools follow a specific curriculum. The state does not have limitations on what can or cannot be included in the instruction. The district or school determines the specific curriculum and resources based on community, school needs and research-based information.

Parental Approval: Code [256.11](#) states that a pupil shall not be required to enroll in health courses if the pupil's parent or guardian files a written statement with the school principal that the course conflicts with the pupil's religious beliefs" (an "opt-out" policy).

New Hampshire

Last Updated: 5/28/2008

Mandate: RSA [186:11](#) (2005) and RSA [189:10](#) (1975) require instruction for students in the prevention of diseases, including communicable diseases, and the effects of venereal diseases and AIDS on the human body. High school students are required to take a course of at least credit in health education that must address venereal diseases and AIDS. Pregnancy prevention is not mentioned.

Curriculum Content: New Hampshire's [Health Education Curriculum Guidelines](#) (2003) suggests instruction in Family Life and Sexuality topics in elementary, middle, and high school grades, including the prevention of HIV, other STDs, and unintended pregnancy.

Parental Approval: The state does not require parents to grant permission for participation in AIDS education ("opt-in").

New Jersey

Last Updated: 12/18/2010

Mandate: New Jersey's state's core curriculum content standards are mandatory. Standard 2.4 of the standards for [Comprehensive Health and Physical Education](#) (2009), titled Human Relationships and Sexuality, states, "all students will acquire knowledge about the physical, emotional, and social aspects of human relationships and sexuality and apply these concepts to support a healthy, active lifestyle." For example, by the end of grade 6, students will, "Determine behaviors that place one at risk for HIV/AIDS, STIs, HPV or unintended pregnancy."

N.J.S.A. [18A:40-42](#) (2007) requires public school districts to distribute to parents and guardians of students in grades seven an educational fact sheet about the causes, symptoms and means of transmission of HPV, and where additional information can be obtained.

Curriculum Content: Content standards relevant to HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention are in state Core Curriculum Content Standards 2.1 through 2.4. The [Comprehensive Health Education and Physical Education Curriculum Framework](#) provide detailed suggestions for instruction on HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention and related content and skills.

N.J.S.A. [18A:35-4.20](#) (2001) requires that "Any sex education that is given as part of any planned course, curriculum or other instructional program and that is intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to human sexual behavior, sexual feelings and sexual values, human sexuality and reproduction, pregnancy avoidance or termination, HIV infection or sexually transmitted diseases shall stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy."

N.J.S.A. [18A:35-4.21](#) (2001) goes on to stress that, "The [local] board of education shall include in its family life and HIV/AIDS curriculum instruction on reasons, skills and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from sexual activity. Any instruction concerning the use of contraceptives or prophylactics such as condoms shall also include information on their failure rates for preventing pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases in actual use among adolescent populations and shall clearly explain the difference between risk reduction through the use of such devices and risk elimination through abstinence."

State Board of Education Administrative Code N.J.A.C. [6A:7-1.7](#) provides that "portions of classes which deal exclusively with human sexuality may be conducted in separate developmentally appropriate sessions for male and female students, provided that the course

content for such separately conducted sessions is the same.”

Parental Approval: N.J.S.A. [18:35-4.7](#) (1979) gives parents the right to exclude a student from any part of health, family life or sex education with no penalties to credit or graduation (an "opt-out" policy).

State Board of Education Administrative Code N.J.A.C. [6A:8-3.1](#)(d) (2009) further states that, "district boards of education shall establish procedures whereby any student whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any or part of the instruction in health, family life education, or sex education is in conflict with his or her conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that part of the course where such instruction is being given" (an "opt-out" policy).