

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy KBB/605.07

Responsible Office: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the review and evaluation of instructional materials for use as a part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum.

B. BACKGROUND

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires school systems to establish a joint committee of educators and representatives of the community for the purposes of reviewing and commenting on instructional material to be submitted to the Superintendent for consideration when recommending instructional material to be approved.

C. PROCEDURES

1. The Family Life and Human Sexuality Committee that reviews the materials of instruction (MOI) to support the Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum is comprised of teachers, community members, and Anne Arundel County Health Department representatives.
 - a. Health education teachers are invited to participate in the review process through the internal professional development registration system.
 - b. Community members are invited to participate in the review process via a communication from the Office of School and Family Partnerships.
 - c. The Curriculum and Instruction Division communicates with the Anne Arundel County Health Department to ensure representation from their staff.
2. The Superintendent's designee invites, receives, and reviews all advisory committee candidates.
 - a. The Superintendent's designee:
 - i. communicates expectations of the committee; and
 - ii. sets the membership of the committee ensuring that the committee is representative of diverse background and experiences
3. The Committee is established annually.

4. The Committee meets four times a year, twice in the fall and twice in the spring.
5. Members of the advisory committee may be suspended or removed from an advisory committee for cause as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
 - a. The Superintendent or his/her designee may suspend advisory committee members for cause as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
 - b. The Superintendent or his/her designee may remove and replace advisory committee members in the event of:
 - i. Death;
 - ii. Resignation; and
 - iii. Just cause, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
6. The Committee reviews the materials as a team and submits its recommendations to the Board of Education.
7. The materials recommended by the committee shall:
 - a. support Maryland state curriculum and address the needs of students as lifelong learners;
 - b. support the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards;
 - c. support the National Health Education Standards;
 - d. reflect population diversity wherever applicable;
 - e. reflect current copyright or production date;
 - f. contain accurate content; and
 - g. contain vocabulary, sentence structure, and concepts appropriate for the intended audience and grade level.
8. The materials are kept in the county Review and Evaluation Center for 60 days so that interested citizens and Board of Education members have adequate time to review the materials. The Review and Evaluation Center is located in the Curriculum and Instruction Resource Center. Arrangements may be made with the Director of Curriculum or his/her designee to view the materials at central office if an interested person cannot get to the Review and Evaluation Center.
9. If no specific challenges are raised with the 60-day review period, Family Life and Human Sexuality materials shall be approved and available for purchase. Materials that are challenged during the 60-day review period are brought to the attention of all Board members, and they are given special Board consideration as an action item.
10. An approved list of MOI for the family life and human sexuality curriculum shall be posted on the school system's internal electronic information sharing system.
11. All educators who teach Health are required to participate in a Family Life and Human Sexuality training session.

12. Written notification is made to parent(s)/guardian(s) announcing the family life and human sexuality unit of study. Students may be excused from the unit upon written request by their parent(s)/guardian(s). Appropriate health education learning activities shall be provided for the students who are excused from the unit.

13. Schools shall provide special opportunities for parents/guardians to view all instructional materials to be used in the program before the materials are used in the classroom.

Regulation History:

Developed by Superintendent: 01/07/15

Reviewed by Board of Education: 01/07/15

Issued: 01/07/15

Note previous regulation history: None