



Family Life & Sexuality Education

As required by Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1301, Family Life & Sexuality Education (FLSE) shall be taught in grades 7-12. FLSE is a comprehensive sexuality education program which promotes and encourages abstinence. However, the program shall also focus on providing students with knowledge regarding the male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections/diseases (STIs/STDs), healthy and unhealthy relationships, self-esteem, and contraception as a means to protect against unwanted pregnancy and STIs/STDs. According to TCA 49-6-1005, FLSE courses must be approved by the state and local boards of education. Approved courses can only be taught by qualified instructors as determined by the local education agency (LEA).

In grades 7-8, FLSE shall be taught through existing health classes, science classes or guest presentations. Any guest presentations must be initiated by a health teacher, science teacher, school counselor or principal. The health teacher, science teacher, school counselor and/or principal can coordinate with approved community resource agencies, including school nurses contracted by MNPS, to deliver FLSE information in grades 7-8. Middle school health teachers, middle school science teachers, school counselors and any guest presenters shall follow the Tennessee Health Education Standards and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching FLSE.

In grades 9-12, FLSE shall be taught as part of the lifetime wellness course. Portions of FLSE shall be taught as part of the anatomy and physiology course, family and consumer sciences courses and health sciences courses. Any guest presentations, relative to FLSE, shall be initiated ONLY by a lifetime wellness teacher, anatomy & physiology teacher, family and consumer sciences teacher, health sciences teacher, school counselor or principal. Lifetime wellness teachers, school counselors and all guest presenters, including school nurses contracted by MNPS, shall follow the Tennessee Lifetime Wellness Standards and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching FLSE. Anatomy & physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences

Revision History

August 2012
May 2010
December 2009
February 2009

Review
Annually

Date Last Reviewed
August 2012

teachers, health sciences teachers shall follow the Tennessee Standards relative to their courses and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching any portion of FLSE.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education

Tennessee law requires that HIV/AIDS Prevention Education be taught at every grade level K-12. Classroom teachers (grades K-4), middle school health teachers, and lifetime wellness teachers shall follow the Tennessee Health Education and Lifetime Wellness Curriculum Standards and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching HIV/AIDS Prevention Education.

Parent and Guardian Notification & Permission Letter

Parents and guardians must be provided a convenient opportunity to preview all materials to be used in teaching FLSE units (e.g., during Open House events or other times at least thirty days prior to teaching). At least thirty days prior to teaching the FLSE units, an active permission letter (see Appendix A) must be sent home and returned with a parent or guardian signature. The permission letter must inform the parent or guardian of the content to be covered and any materials (e.g., videos, texts, printed material, guest speakers) used to supplement the instruction. In addition, the permission letter must inform the parent or guardian of their option to exclude their child from any portion of the FLSE units without penalty.

- A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse their child from any or all portions of the FLSE units shall indicate their preference on the permission letter and submit it to the student's health or lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor (middle school only) and the principal (the attached permission letter would qualify as the "written request").
- Students are not allowed to attend any portion of the FLSE lessons without a written permission letter from the parent/guardian.
- If a parent or guardian provides neither written permission to participate in the class nor a written request to remove the student from the class, the student shall NOT be permitted in the class.

Any child whose parent or guardian chooses to opt out of this portion of the course shall be allowed to complete alternate health or wellness-related assignments. Provided the assignments are completed in a timely and satisfactory manner, the student shall not endure penalty.

Appendix A and B shall be used by all health, lifetime wellness teachers, school counselors and principals. Anatomy and physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences teachers, health sciences teachers and middle school science teachers should modify the attached form to reflect the content covered within their course.

Preview of Materials

All materials, relative to FLSE, must be previewed and approved by the middle school health or science teacher, lifetime wellness teacher, anatomy & physiology teacher,

family and consumer sciences teachers, health sciences teachers, school counselor (if initiating a guest presentation) and the school's principal prior to use in the classroom.

Approved Guest Speakers/Presenters/Community Resource Agencies

Middle school health teachers, lifetime wellness teachers, anatomy & physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences teachers and health sciences teachers, school counselors and/or principals shall use ONLY approved community resource presenters. Community resource agencies are approved through an MNPS FLSE review committee. The committee is comprised of the Lead Instructor for Health, Wellness and Physical Education and a team of lifetime wellness teachers and a high school principal. The names of approved community resource agencies are published in the Alignment Nashville Family Life & Sexuality Education Resource Directory. Additional approved agencies are provided to health and lifetime wellness teachers, middle school science teachers, anatomy & physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences teachers, health sciences teachers, school counselors and principals, each year, by the Lead Instructor of Health, Wellness and Physical Education.

Agencies that are approved by the district should not invite the media to presentations in an MNPS school unless they have approval from the district's Communications office.

Contraception

While abstinence is the focus of the FLSE units, contraception shall also be taught in grades 7-12. However, MNPS policy prohibits actual contraceptive methods in the classroom. TCA 68-1-1205 prohibits the distribution of contraceptive methods on school property. Health and lifetime wellness teachers, middle school science teachers, school counselors or guest presenters shall follow the Tennessee Health and Lifetime Wellness Standards, and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching contraception. Anatomy & physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences teachers and health science teachers shall follow Tennessee Standards for their content area and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching contraception. Health and lifetime wellness teachers, anatomy & physiology teachers, family and consumer sciences teachers, health science teachers, school counselors, school nurses and guest speakers are allowed to educate students about where to obtain contraception.

Abortion

According to the Tennessee Lifetime Wellness Standards, abortion shall be discussed as an option for an unwanted pregnancy. However, TCA 68-1-1205 prohibits abortion referrals and/or the encouragement of and/or advocacy for abortions.

Sexuality Transmitted Infections/Diseases (including HIV/AIDS) Testing On School Property

With the exception of school based health clinics, testing for sexually transmitted infections/diseases, including HIV/AIDS, is NOT allowed on school property.

Safe Haven Law

TCA 68-11-255 requires all Tennessee schools to provide information regarding the Safe Haven Law as part of the middle school health class (grades 7-8) and lifetime wellness course.

References/Authority

TCA § 49-6-1005 (a)

TCA § 49-6-1008

TCA § 49-6-1301

TCA § 49-6-1302

TCA § 49-6-1303

TCA § 68-11-255

TCA § 68-1-1205

Family Life Education Law of 1989

Middle School FLSE Permission Letter

To: Parents of 7th and 8th grade Students
From: (Insert instructor's name), Middle School Health Teacher or School Counselor

RE: Family Life & Sexuality Education

(Insert date)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

According to Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1005(a),49-6-1008, 49-6-1301, 49-6-1302, 49-6-1303, 68-1-1205, 68-11-255 and the Family Life Education Law of 1989: Family Life & Sexuality Education is mandatory; HIV/AIDS Prevention Education is mandatory; students shall be educated about the Safe Haven Law; parents and guardians shall have convenient opportunities to preview all materials used in teaching the Family Life & Sexuality Education Curriculum Standards; parents and guardians are given the option of having their child excused from this portion of the curriculum and given comparable independent health-related assignments. A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse their child from ALL portions of the family life instruction shall indicate on this permission letter and submit to the student's health teacher or lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor and school's principal.

The content could include the following: the male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS). Specifically, the male and female reproductive systems will include the anatomy & physiology of reproductive organs and glands, the types and causes of disorders and diseases/infections, and ways of keeping the reproductive systems healthy. The pregnancy unit will include information on the entire pregnancy process from conception until birth. While abstinence will be the primary focus of the lesson, there will be information regarding contraception. However, actual contraceptive methods are NOT allowed in the classroom and are NOT allowed for distribution on school property. The sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS unit will cover material regarding the types of STIs, symptoms, modes of transmission, methods of treatment and prevention measures. With the exception of school based health clinics, testing for any sexually transmitted infection/disease (including HIV/AIDS) is prohibited on school property. , Your child's health teacher or school counselor could coordinate with approved community resource agencies to deliver portions of the Family Life & Sexuality Education Curriculum Standards.

If you have any questions or concerns, call _____ or email _____.

Please sign and indicate your preference below. **This form must be signed and returned by _____.**

Sincerely,

(Insert teacher's name or school counselor's name)

Parent's Signature Date

Student's Signature Date

- _____ **YES**, my child will participate in the reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI units
- _____ **NO**, my child will not participate in the reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI units (circle the units in which the student will not participate). I understand that my child will receive alternate health-related assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.
- _____ **NO**, my child will not participate in **ANY** of the Family Life & Sexuality Education units. I understand that I must submit a request to the teacher and principal. I understand that my child will receive alternate health-related assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.

High School FLSE Permission Letter

To: Parents of Lifetime Wellness Students
From: *(Insert Instructor's Name)*, Lifetime Wellness Teacher

RE: Family Life & Sexuality Education

(Insert date)

Dear Parents,

According to Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1005(a), 49-6-1008, 49-6-1301, 49-6-1302, 49-6-1303, 68-1-1205, 68-11-255 and the Family Life Education Law of 1989: Family Life & Sexuality Education is mandatory; HIV/AIDS Prevention Education is mandatory; students shall be educated about the Safe Haven Law; parents and guardians shall have convenient opportunities to preview all materials used in teaching the Family Life & Sexuality Education Curriculum Standards; parents and guardians are given the option of having their child excused from this portion of the curriculum and given comparable independent wellness-related assignments. A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse a student from ALL portions of the family life instruction shall indicate on this letter and submit it to the student's lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor and the school's principal.

The male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (including HIV/AIDS) will be taught as part of the Tennessee Lifetime Wellness Curriculum Standards beginning *(insert date)*. Specifically, the units of the male and female reproductive systems will encompass the anatomy & physiology of reproductive organs and glands, the types and causes of disorders and diseases/infections, and ways of keeping the reproductive systems healthy.

The pregnancy unit will include information on the entire pregnancy process from conception until birth. While abstinence will be the primary focus of the lesson, there will be information on methods of contraception. However, actual contraceptive methods are NOT allowed in the classroom and are NOT allowed for distribution on school property. The unit will conclude with a video illustrating a live birth, "The Miracle of Life." This video is widely used in lifetime wellness classes throughout the nation and is viewed as a valuable educational tool.

The sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS unit will cover material regarding the types of STIs, symptoms, modes of transmission, methods of treatment, and prevention measures. With the exception of school based health clinics, testing for any sexually transmitted infection/disease (including HIV/AIDS) is prohibited on school property. Your child's lifetime wellness teacher or school counselor could coordinate with approved community resource agencies to deliver portions of the Family Life & Sexuality Education Curriculum Standards.

If you have any questions or concerns, call _____ or email _____.

Please sign and indicate your preference below. **This form must be signed and returned by** _____.

Sincerely,

(Insert teacher's name)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

_____ YES, my child will participate in the reproductive systems, pregnancy, and STI units

_____ NO, my child will NOT participate in the reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI units (circle the units in which the student will not participate). I understand that my child will receive alternate wellness assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.

_____ NO, my child will NOT participate in **ANY** of the Family Life & Sexuality Education units. I understand that I must submit a request to my child's Lifetime Wellness Teacher and principal. I also understand that my child will receive alternate wellness assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.