

## **Policy Code: 3510 HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Board of Education of Edenton-Chowan Schools is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The Board recognizes the primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents as provided in this policy. The comprehensive health education program provided by the school system will meet the requirements of state law and the objectives established by the State Board of Education.

### **A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

A comprehensive health education program will be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

**Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality will not be included in the health education program in kindergarten through fourth grade (see also policy 2130, Parental Involvement).** As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage, STDs, the human reproductive system, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

### **B. PARENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND WITHHOLD CONSENT FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center or main office of each school where these subjects will be taught.

The principal or designee shall notify parents of the right to withhold or withdraw consent for their child's participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction. The parent will have three options as outlined in the Healthy Youth Act: Option 1: Abstinence-based reproductive health; Option 2: Reproductive health and safety education which includes all of option 1; and Option 3: deny consent to participate in any of the reproductive health instruction. The parent must return their signed option choice to the principal or designee.

### **C. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION**

For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional objectives and only use the age-appropriate materials that have been made available to parents for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research

that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education or other field authorized by law.

A determination of what is an appropriate education for a student with disabilities must be made in accordance with the student's individualized education plan, following all procedures as provided in the North Carolina *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*.

LEGAL REF: [115C-36 art.9](#), [-76.25\(a\)\(1\)](#),[-76.35\(b\)\(5\)](#),[-76.40](#),[-76.55](#), [115C-81.25](#),[-81.30](#); State Board of Education Policies [EXCP-000](#), [SCOS-007](#); *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*; Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994

**Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 2130)**

ADOPTED: August 2, 2004

AMENDED: August 30, 2010; March 1, 2016; August 1, 2017; February 13, 2018;  
**October 3, 2023**

**Edenton-Chowan Schools**