



Sex Education Instruction Policy

I. PROVIDENCE HALL CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOARD) DIRECTIVE

It is the primary responsibility of parents to provide sex education for their children. It is the responsibility of the schools to provide supportive instruction that will complement the efforts in the home. The Board authorizes Providence Hall Charter School (PHCS) schools (elementary, junior high, high school) to conduct instruction on health, family life, character, refusal skills, and the harmful effects of pornography within the framework of guidelines established by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and as approved by the Board.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

The Board delegates to PHCS Assistant Principals of Academics the responsibility for the review and selection of appropriate materials and the responsibility to ensure use of appropriate, approved and supportive educational instruction.

- A. Sex education is best described as that part of character education that develops a reverence and respect for birth and life, respect for the human body, respect for parenthood, and a respect for moral standards. It includes instruction to develop understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological phases of human relations as they are affected by male and female relationships. It includes more than the anatomical and reproductive information, and it emphasizes the development of positive attitudes, and provides guidance for building healthy relationships.
- B. Programs and materials relating to sex education shall be an abstinence-based curriculum approved by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).
- C. All instructional materials shall be medically accurate and evidence based.
- D. Sex education shall be conducted within the framework of already existing courses such as Health, Biology, Psychology, Family and Consumer Science, and Physiology.
- E. **Responsibilities of PHCS**
 1. **Health Education Committee**
 - a. PHCS will form a Health Education Committee, consisting of PHCS parent/guardian representatives, PHCS health teacher(s), PHCS counselor(s), PHCS school nurse(s), PHCS principal(s), PHCS academic director(s), and member(s) of The Board.
 - b. The Health Education Committee will
 - a. review commercial materials, teacher prepared materials and professional programs considered for school use.
 - b. screen proposed courses of study, instructional units, and teaching materials relating specifically to sex education.
 - c. submit the approved list to the Board Administration for review and approval.
 - d. review and report data to the Board every two years as required by law. (Utah Code 53G-10-402)
 2. **Approved Materials**
 - a. Media, instructional materials and technology applications approved for use will be published and distributed to PHCS schools.
 - b. Approved materials will be made available for public viewing by request.



3. **Parent/Guardian Classes**

- a. As parent/guardian interest warrants, classes for parents/guardians may be conducted.
- b. These classes would focus on parenting skills that would enhance the parents'/guardians' roles as they teach their children responsible values and attitudes about sexuality.

4. **Elementary School Elective Maturation Program**

PHCS elementary school shall plan an elective maturation program for each fifth-grade girl and her parents/guardians and each fifth-grade boy and his parents/guardians.

- a. Students may opt out of the program with written permission from their parents/guardians to their school using the *USBE Parent/Guardian Consent Form Sex Education Instruction*.
- b. The main purposes of the program will be to provide accurate information about sexual development and to encourage discussion in the home.
- c. At the discretion of the PHCS elementary school principal, students and their parents/guardians from other grades may be invited to attend.

5. **Complaints & Comments**

PHCS will manage a logging and tracking system of parental and community complaints and comments resulting from student participation in human sexuality instruction.

6. Violators of USBE policy are to be reported to the State Board Commission.

7. PHCS will provide training for health educators, allowing them to review USBE rules and instructional materials once every three years.

F. **Responsibilities of PHCS Health Educators**

1. Parent/guardian approval shall be obtained by sex education teachers in writing, using the *USBE Parent/Guardian Consent Form Sex Education Instruction*.
2. Materials that will be used in school presentations will be made available to parents/guardians upon request prior to the presentations taking place.
3. Selected programs must come from the published, approved list.
4. New teachers are required to attend a state-sponsored professional development as they begin their career. Thereafter, teachers must complete a required professional development once every three years.
5. Use instructional materials that are medically accurate and aligned with the Utah Health Core. Teachers may respond to students' questions to provide accurate data or correct inaccurate or misleading information.