

HEALTH EDUCATION INFORMATION FOR HEMET UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

On May 8, 2019, the [State Board of Education approved a new framework for health education, including recommendations for teaching sex education that aligns with the California Healthy Youth Act, the state's comprehensive sexual health education law.](#)

Since then, many of our families have asked questions or expressed concerns to our schools about what this means for health education in Hemet USD. In an effort to provide channels for open, two-way communication, the District is reaching out with some answers to the most common questions we've fielded to date.

What is the California Healthy Youth Act (AB 329)?

Enacted January 1, 2016, this law, AB-329, California Education Code (EC) sections 51930–51939, integrates the instruction of comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.

The bill renamed the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act to the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). The bill requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades seven to twelve, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.

The California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) has five primary purposes:

1. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and from unintended pregnancy;
2. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family;
3. To promote understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development;
4. To ensure pupils receive integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention instruction and provide educators with clear tools and guidance to accomplish that end;
5. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors

For information on the California Healthy Youth Act please visit [Comprehensive Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Instruction](#), or [click here](#) to view FAQs from the CDE.

What is currently taught in Health Education, and how can I see the materials?

The District's curriculum program, as required by state law, includes a comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education, taught once in middle school and once in high school. These programs are taught in 7th grade Science and 9th grade Physical Education classes. The District is required at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment for a new student, to inform each parent about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education planned for the coming year.

A parent or guardian of a pupil may request in writing that his or her child be excused from all or part of the comprehensive sexual health education, HIV/AIDS prevention instruction, and any assessments related to that education.

Our curriculum for middle school and high school is called Positive Prevention Plus and can be previewed at the following link: [Positive Prevention Plus parent preview](#). Curricular materials are available for review at our District curriculum library. Our District Librarians are happy to assist you.

Please call 765-5100 and ask for Dagmar Rea, District Librarian-Secondary Sites or email drea@hemetusd.org, Or Elizabeth Areiza, District Librarian - Elementary Sites, email earreiza@hemetusd.org, to schedule an appointment for viewing materials.

Parents Rights: Parents may have their student "Opt-Out" from participating in the curriculum by notifying the school at registration or by written notice to the school. [7th grade Parent Notification letter](#)
[9th grade Parent Notification letter](#)

What is the FAIR Act (SB 48)?

The Bill SB 48, otherwise known as the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Act, was signed into law in 2011 to take effect in 2012.

The bill revised the language in California's Education Code (Section 51204.5) to address the course of study, classroom instruction, and instructional materials that relate to the contributions of various groups of people in the history of California and the United States. This more inclusive orientation includes: "...a study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society."

The FAIR act is a protection and help to minority groups from bullying and increases understanding among peers. The FAIR Act is not optional and is a required opportunity for students in California.

What is the newly adopted Health Framework and how will Hemet Unified School District be implementing this?

The Health Framework: This is a guidance document that districts may use when developing health education programs for students.

The Health Curriculum Framework is a guidance document provided by the California State of Education Department. Adoption of materials will be done at the local level with collaboration from the elected school board, district administration, and parental influence. The goal of the Health Curriculum Framework is to dispel myths, breaking down stereotypes and linking students to resources that can help prevent bullying, self-harm, feelings of hopelessness, and serious considerations of suicide.

The District will not be changing any health curriculum for the upcoming school year. Prior to beginning the process of looking at curricular options, stakeholder input will be gathered.

What is the difference between the state law and the new framework?

The state law is the education code that must be taught in public schools in California. The framework is a guidance document that districts may use, but are not required to use, when developing health education programs for students.

The California Department of Education has created a helpful guide to understanding the differences between the California Healthy Youth Act and the new framework. [Click here](#) to view it.

Share your comments/questions regarding Health Education

Send us your comments and questions: [Fill out this brief Google Form](#) and send us your questions and feedback.

Contact the District

You can reach us at 951-765-5100, and ask for Curriculum and Instruction, Or send us an email at one of the addresses below.

Kimberly Romeril, Director of Secondary Education: kromeril@hemetusd.org
Lauren Armijo, Director of Elementary Education: larmijo@hemetusd.org