

POLICY #5147

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS

It is the intent of the Winooski School District to implement a program promoting lifelong sexual health. This includes comprehensive sexual health education, the provision of, or referrals to, age appropriate sexual health services, and an effective STD/HIV and pregnancy prevention program.

Research shows that well-designed, well-implemented school-based STD prevention programs can significantly reduce sexual risk behaviors among students. Outcomes of such programs include a delay in first sexual intercourse, a decrease in the number of sex partners and an increase in condom or contraceptive use. There is no evidence of increased likelihood of students having sex through participation in such programs.

It is the policy of the Winooski School District to establish goals for comprehensive sexual health education, sexual health services and other school based activities that are designed to promote improved student outcomes and reduce risky sexual behavior.

1st Reading: May 9, 2018

2nd Reading: June 13, 2018

Approved by Board of School Trustees: June 13, 2018

Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. § 906

16 V.S.A. § 131

16 V.S.A. § 134

16 V.S.A. § 4226

Cross Reference(s):

Procedures:

Goals for Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

- A. The school district shall provide comprehensive sexual health education programs as required by state law and regulations of the State Board of Education. In particular, the district shall provide sexual health education and shall develop curricular programs intended to accomplish applicable goals enumerated in the National Health Education Standards, the National Sexuality Education Standards, and V.S.A. 16 §131.
- B. Comprehensive sexual health education programs shall be conducted by appropriately licensed staff members. Ongoing professional development shall be provided as needed.

Implementation of Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

- A. Comprehensive Sexual Health Education in the Winooski School District shall comply with the National Health Education Standards, The National Sexuality Education Standards and V.S.A. 16 § 131. To do so, the district shall provide all health educators and other appropriate staff with the following:
 - A written health education curriculum that includes objectives and content addressing sexual health education
- B. The sexual health education program shall provide medically accurate instruction on all of the following topics, as age-, developmentally-, and culturally-appropriate:
 - The physical, social, and emotional changes of human development
 - Human anatomy, reproduction, and sexual development
 - Healthy relationships, including friendships that are based on mutual respect and the ability to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy relationships
 - Healthy decision-making skills about sexuality and all relationships
 - The benefits of delaying initiation of sexual activity, use of condoms, birth control medications
 - Sexually transmitted infection prevention and treatment measures
 - Options for pregnancy, including parenting, adoption, and abortion

- Information about gender identity and sexual orientation for all students

In particular, instruction should be accessible to pupils with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the provision of a modified curriculum, materials and instruction in alternative formats, and auxiliary aids. Curricula shall be reviewed every three years to ensure it is meeting the needs of students and based in current research.

Sexual Health Services is defined by the Centers for Disease Control to include: HIV and other STD testing and treatment; pregnancy testing; access to condoms

Goals for Condom Availability

- A. As part of a comprehensive sexual health program, the Winooski School District shall make condoms available to middle and high school students, without unnecessary barriers to obtaining condoms or stigma surrounding access.
- B. The district shall provide information about proper condom use that is inclusive of all students.
- C. The district will ensure that condoms are available either through funding or donation from community partners. When possible, the district provides a variety of latex, non-latex, condoms and dental dams.

Implementation of Condom Availability

- A. The district has identified the following locations where condoms will be made accessible to students: guidance office, health office, health education classrooms. Other locations may be added to better protect student confidentiality and promote accessibility. Information about condom use will be made available in these locations.
- B. School staff in those locations will receive training on how to talk with young people about sexual health and answer questions about condoms. While a conversation with staff is not required as part of condom availability, staff will give information and answer questions as requested by students.
- C. Information will be provided by the district to students and families to promote awareness of the condom availability program. This may include annual parent letters, announcements during comprehensive sexual health education instruction, one-to-one meetings, and/or posters.
- D. No student age 12 or older will be refused reasonable access to condoms through this program. Minors in Vermont have a legal right to access a full range of

reproductive and sexual health services without parent permission. Minors are provided access to condoms in variety of settings, and may purchase them without parental consent.

Goals for Referral System

Through the development and implementation of a sustainable referral system, the Winooski School District will help to realize the goals of decreased incidence of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy among Vermont adolescents by connecting sexually active adolescents to a medical home and/ or adolescent-friendly community-based medical services.

Implementation of Referrals to Sexual Health Services

- A. The most effective method for Vermont adolescents to receive appropriate sexual health services as needed is to ensure that they receive an annual well-care visit in a medical home that follows the Bright Futures protocol of the American Academy of Pediatrics. District nursing staff will continue to facilitate collaboration between school nurses, and VDH School Liaison to develop and maintain systems at the district and building level to ensure all students have and are accessing a youth-friendly medical home. These protocols and systems are a preliminary step towards ensuring that all students receive HPV vaccination series, STD/HIV/pregnancy screening as needed, and appropriate medical interventions to prevent STD/HIV and pregnancy.
- B. If a student presents with sexual health needs, but does not have a medical home, district staff will refer students to an adolescent-friendly provider. Following the referral, district staff will work to assist the student to find a permanent medical home.
- C. No student age 12 or older will be refused a referral to community sexual health services through this program. District staff will not provide information about the referral to parents. However, district staff will encourage youth to speak with a supportive adult in their life. Minors in Vermont have a legal right to access a full range of reproductive and sexual health services without parent permission.

PARENTAL/STAFF REQUESTS

- A. The curriculum will be made available to parents and community members for viewing upon request.
- B. Any pupil whose parent/guardian shall present to the school principal a signed statement that the teaching of disease, its symptoms, development and treatment, conflicts with the parents' religious convictions shall be exempt from such instruction,

and no child so exempt shall be penalized by reason of that exemption. (V.S.A. 16 § 134).

- C. Employees may request to be excused from participating in aspects of the sexual health program if there is a conflict with the employee's cultural values, ethics or religious beliefs. Alternative arrangements will be considered and if appropriate, arranged. At no time will staff be allowed to act in a manner that negatively impacts the students' care or treatment.