

SEX EDUCATION NOTIFICATION

The Natick Public Schools comprehensive health education curriculum for grades K-12 was developed by our professional staff under the direction of the Director of Health and Physical Education. The overall goal of the curriculum is to promote the health and well being of our students to help them make informed decisions about themselves and others.

Sex education is part of the health education curriculum in grades 5-9 and ¹⁰11. It includes topics such as puberty, dating, relationships and communication skills, pregnancy, pregnancy options, birth control, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, and prevention of sexual abuse. Sexuality topics may also be included in other disciplines such as Family Living, Child Development, Biology, and Human Anatomy and Physiology. The instructional materials used in the courses include curriculum packages and videos, guest speakers, and assemblies. The curriculum and materials used may be reviewed by calling the Principal of your child's school or the Director of Health and Physical Education. During the courses and units, students will be able to ask questions which will be answered factually and in an age-appropriate manner. Each student's privacy will be respected and no one will be asked to answer a question or reveal personal information that would cause the student to become embarrassed. Material will be presented in a balanced, factual way that makes it clear that people may have strong religious and moral beliefs about various issues and that those beliefs must be respected.

Under Massachusetts's law and School Committee policy, a parent or guardian may exempt your child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues. To receive an exemption for your child, simply send a letter to your child's Principal requesting an exemption for your child. No student who is exempted from this portion of the curriculum will be penalized. We may provide an alternative assignment to students who are exempted.

Changed to grade 10.