

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes the characteristics of a responsible family life and sexuality education program.

Section

1 Responsible family life and sexuality education programs.

Subd. 1. Definitions. (a) Lists the characteristics of a responsible family life and sexuality education program.

(b) Defines the term “age-appropriate” for purposes of this section.

(c) Defines “medically accurate” for purposes of this section.

Subd. 2. Curriculum requirements. (a) Allows school districts to provide a responsible family life and sexuality education program for students in grades 7 through 12 that is age-appropriate and medically accurate.

(b) Requires school districts to consult with parents and guardians of enrolled students when establishing policies, procedures, curriculum, and services under this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Notice and parental options. (a) Indicates the legislature’s intent to encourage students to communicate with their parents and to respect parents’ rights to

supervise their children's education on matters of family life and sexuality education.

(b) Allows parents to excuse their children from a responsible family life and sexuality education program.

(c) Requires school districts to establish policies and procedures for notifying parents about whether the school districts are offering a responsible family life and sexuality education program, how parents may inspect program materials, who presents the program, and parents' right to choose not to have their children participate in the program.

(d) Directs school districts to establish policies and procedures to reasonably restrict access to program materials for students not participating in the program.

(e) Allows school districts to develop a policy for adults to review the content of the instructional materials and to make reasonable arrangements to provide alternative instruction without an academic penalty to students whose parents object to the regular program content.

Subd. 4. Assistance to school districts. (a) Allows the Education Department to assist school districts in implementing a responsible family life and sexuality education program by providing training, staff resources, and technical assistance.

(b) Requires the department's technical assistance to comply with national education health standards and to promote age appropriate instruction and materials, medically accurate and objective information, instruction and materials on marriage and committed relationships, instruction and materials that accommodate diverse backgrounds, instruction and materials that encourage students to communicate with their parents, instruction and materials about abstinence, instruction and materials about sexually transmitted infections, instruction and materials about preventing and reducing the risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, instruction and materials about making and implementing responsible decisions about sexuality and using health services, and instruction and materials that do not teach or promote religious doctrine or reflect or promote bias.