



## Comprehensive Health Education Policy

Portland Public School District (PPS) is committed to creating safe and healthy learning environments to support the growth and development of every student. The development of health literacy, the ability to access, understand, appraise, apply and advocate for health information and services in order to maintain or enhance one's own health and the health of others, is necessary for students to be healthy throughout their lives.

Health education is an integral component of quality school programming. Schools have direct contact with a significant number of Portland's youth for about 6 hours a day and for the critical years of students' social, psychological, physical and intellectual development. As a result, schools play an important role in improving students' health and social outcomes as well as promoting academic success (CDC Healthy Schools). Healthy students are more ready and able to learn and are less likely to experience negative academic impact (e.g. academic failure, lower test scores, truancy, absenteeism) than students who engage in risky health behaviors. According to the CDC, schools cannot achieve their primary mission of education if students are not healthy, and schools can address the health needs of students in part through effective health education. Research supports that school health programs and policies may be one of the most efficient ways to reduce risky behaviors in students, prevent health problems and address the achievement gap. Portland Public Schools believe that in accordance with the National Health Education Standards, "health education should contribute directly to a student's ability to successfully practice behaviors that protect and promote health and avoid or reduce health risks". We also recognize that skills are the foundation of effective health education instruction and that comprehensive school health education assists students in living healthier lives. The policy presented here explains how we, in Portland Public Schools, will create effective health education programming.

PPS requires students in grades K through 12 be taught Comprehensive Health Education that is medically-accurate, age and developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically sustaining, and implemented in safe and supportive learning environments where all students feel valued. All Portland Public Schools shall take a skills-based approach<sup>1</sup> to teach comprehensive health education that addresses a variety of topics, such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use/abuse, healthy eating/nutrition, mental and emotional health, personal health and wellness, physical

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<sup>1</sup> Skillsbasedhealth education is "an approach to creating or maintaining healthy lifestyles and conditions through the development of knowledge, attitudes, and especially skills, using a variety of learning experiences, with an emphasis on participation" (World Health Organization, 2003, p. 3).



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activity, safety and injury prevention, violence prevention, and comprehensive sexual health education that is LGBTQ inclusive.

Comprehensive health education curriculum shall be modified as needed for students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners. It shall promote healthy lifestyle habits, healthy relationships and health literacy for all students. Health education curricula will align with the PPS scope and sequence, which integrates Oregon Laws and Health Education Standards. Qualified and trained teachers will implement curricula.

### Review of Policy and Comprehensive Sexuality Education Plan (CSEP)

District will utilize relevant district staff, local, state and national data, emerging best practices, new scientific information, and effective education strategies to review and update the comprehensive sexuality education plan of instruction and this policy every two years as prescribed by OAR 581-022-2050.

Legal references: Comprehensive Health Education (General) OAR 581-022-2000: Diploma Requirements; OAR 581-022-2030: District Curriculum; OAR 581-022-2310: Equal Educational Opportunities; OAR 581-022-2312: All Students Belong; OAR 581-029-0001: School Safety and Prevention System; Wellness ORS 336.472 (SB 79): Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation; Mental and Emotional Health OAR 581-022-2060: Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling; OAR 581-022-2510 (Adi's Act, SB 52): Suicide Prevention; ORS 339.351-364: Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Intimidation; Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs OAR 581-022-2045: Prevention Education in Drugs and Alcohol; ORS 336.222: Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs; ORS 336.241: Cannabis Abuse Prevention; Growth and Development/Violence Prevention Title IX: Title IX of the Education Amendments Act; OAR 581-022-2050: Human Sexuality Education; ORS 174.1: Oregon Equality Act; ORS 336.035: Required Courses of Study; ORS 336.059 (Erin's Law, SB 856): Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Instruction; ORS 336.455: Human Sexuality Education, K-12; ORS 336.465: Examination of Instructional Materials; ORS 339.366 (Healthy Teens Relationship Act, HB 4077, SB 790): Teen Dating Violence and Domestic Violence

### Related Policies:

[1.80.020-P](#): Non-discrimination/Anti-Harassment

[2.10.010-P](#): Racial Educational Equity Policy

[3.60.062-AD](#): Student Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity



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[4.30.050-P](#): Student Suicide Prevention

[4.30.060-P](#): Anti-Harassment

[3.30.021-P](#): Tobacco Possession & Use

[4.30.061-AD](#): Transgender, Nonbinary and Gender Diverse Students

[4.30.071-AD](#): Harassment, Sexual Violence, and Teen Dating Violence

[4.30.072-AD](#): Title IX Student to Student Sex-Based Discrimination and  
Harassment

History: Adopted 6/4/18; Amended 3/2021