



Savage Public School
Elementary District No. 7 & HS District No. 2
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Policy 2335F1 - Human Sexuality Instruction Annual Notice

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Savage School District is providing a notice that is required under the provisions of Senate Bill 99, which the 2021 Legislature passed, and Governor Gianforte signed into law. The operative section of law governing this notice is Section 20-7-120, MCA, which provides as follows:

- 20-7-120. Excused absences from curriculum requirements -- notice -- prohibited activities.** (1) A parent, guardian, or other person who is responsible for the care of a child may refuse to allow the child to attend or withdraw the child from a course of instruction, a class period, an assembly, an organized school function, or instruction provided by the district through its staff or guests invited at the request of the district regarding human sexuality instruction. The withdrawal or refusal to attend is an excused absence pursuant to 20-5-103.
- (2) Any school implementing or maintaining a curriculum, providing materials, or holding an event or assembly at which the district provides human sexuality instruction, whether introduced by school educators, administrators, or officials or by guests invited at the request of the school, shall adopt a policy ensuring parental or guardian notification no less than 48 hours prior to holding an event or assembly or introducing materials for instructional use.
- (3) A school district shall annually notify the parent or guardian of each student scheduled to be enrolled in human sexuality instruction in the district or school in advance of the instruction of:
- (a) the basic content of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction intended to be taught to the student; and
- (b) the parent's or guardian's right to withdraw the student from the district's or school's human sexuality instruction.
- (4) A school district shall make all curriculum materials used in the district's or school's human sexuality instruction available for public inspection prior to the use of the materials in actual instruction.
- (5) A school district or its personnel or agents may not permit a person, entity, or any affiliate or agent of the person or entity to offer, sponsor, or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students or personnel if the person, entity, or any affiliate or agent of the person or entity is a provider of abortion services.
- (6) For purposes of this section, "human sexuality instruction" means teaching or otherwise providing information about human sexuality, including intimate relationships, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, sexual acts, sexual orientation, gender identity, abstinence, contraception, or reproductive rights and responsibilities.

This notice is being provided comprehensively and in advance of the school year, also well in advance of the minimum notice of 48 hours prior to instruction to ensure full transparency and to provide a parent/guardian the right to opt their child out of "human sexuality instruction" as defined in (6) of the law above.


Shawn Conradsen, Chair
Charles (Chuck) Thiel, Vice Chair

Connie Smith, Trustee
Wayne Quinnell, Trustee
Chandi Tombre, Trustee

Courses and Related Activities Where the Topic of Human Sexuality Instruction Could Arise:

The district has four categories of activities that involve human sexuality instruction as defined in the law.

1. **Health Enhancement Curriculum:** The first category consists of designated courses involving human sexuality instruction that are part of our health curriculum. Although none of these courses are exclusively devoted to human sexuality instruction, the topic of human sexuality does arise in the typical course delivery at various times.
 - a. Freshman and Sophomore Physical Education and Health: Current Events related to Title IX, gender equity, or facility accessibility/accommodations may generate class discussion throughout the school year.
 - b. Physical Education and Health: Designated Health Days (i.e. World Aids Day, December 1) may lead to basic health information being presented.
2. **Other Courses:** The second category consists of other courses where topics related to or involving human sexuality instruction arise incidentally through addressing topics germane to the course and consistent with accreditation standards. These courses include but are not limited to science and literature.
 - a. Seventh grade science on the unit of body systems.
 - b. Anatomy and Physiology Course for the school year.
 - c. Advanced Art, every other year, the art teacher discusses the musical *Rent* and how it changed the theatrical world and what topics artists started to cover in musical theatre. AIDS is discussed as it takes place in New York City during the 1980s when the AIDS epidemic is sweeping the nation and everyone is struggling to understand the new disease and how it was affecting their loved ones as people started to die more and more often. Homosexuality is briefly mentioned, but not discussed when this musical is talked about in a historical context.
 - d. 2) 2nd Grade- Petroglyphs. Students discuss petroglyphs and the symbols that Native Americans left behind. They watch a video about Bear Gulch in central Montana (north of Billings), where a family ranch became a tourist site because of the petroglyphs on the land. One of the drawings depicts what they suspect to be a male warrior trying to ward off evil spirits while his wife is in labor. Most petroglyphs are more about the animals they hunt or the time of year with the change of seasons.
3. **Other Services Provided by Designated Staff:** The third category consists of student-initiated inquiries of school district staff that, in order to address, may involve human sexuality as defined in law. Typical staff involved in these interactions include but are not limited to librarians, counselors, and school nurses. Inquiries will be addressed on an age-appropriate basis using the professional judgment of licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized school personnel.
4. **Special Events and Student Assemblies:** The fourth category consists of special events and student assemblies periodically scheduled that **touch on topics of student health and which may involve incidental mention of topics related to human sexuality instruction as defined in the law.** The following are dates and times when such assemblies are scheduled during the upcoming school year:

 There are no events planned for the this school year.

Notice of Your Rights:

As a parent/guardian of a student, you have the right to refuse to allow your child to attend or withdraw your child from a course of instruction, a class period, an assembly, an organized school function, or instruction provided by the district through its staff or guests invited at the request of the district regarding human sexuality instruction. The withdrawal or refusal to attend is an excused absence pursuant to Section 20-5-103, MCA. You can opt your child out of human sexuality instruction by providing the school district written notice by completing, signing, and submitting the attached form.

Educational Materials: (Please contact the classroom teacher for any educational materials that may pertain.)

1. The basic content of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction; and
2. All curriculum materials used in the district's human sexuality instruction.
3. Art information:
 - ✚ Advanced Arts Standards:
 - VA:Cr2.2.IIIa Demonstrate understanding of the importance of balancing freedom and responsibility in the use of images, materials, tools, and equipment in the creation and circulation of creative work.
 - VA:Cr2.3.IIIa Demonstrate in works of art or design how visual and material culture defines, shapes, enhances, inhibits, and/or empowers people's lives
 - VA:Re7.1.IIIa Analyze how responses to art develop over time based on knowledge of and experience with art and life.
 - VA:Re7.2.IIIa Determine the commonalities within a group of artists or visual images attributed to a particular type of art, timeframe, or culture.
 - VA:Re9.1.IIIa Construct evaluations of a work of art or collection of works based on differing sets of criteria.
 - VA:Cn10.1.IIIa Synthesize knowledge of social, cultural, historical, and personal life with art-making approaches to create meaningful works of art or design.
 - VA:Cn11.1.IIIa Appraise the impact of an artist or a group of artists on the beliefs, values, and behaviors of a society.
 - ✚ Second Grade Unit on Petroglyphs Standards:
 - VA:CR.3.2a: Discuss and reflect with peers about choices made in creating artwork.
 - VA:CN.11.2a: Compare and contrast cultural uses of artwork from different times and places, including traditional and/or contemporary works by American Indians.
 - VA:RE.8.2a Communicate feelings when experiencing works of art, including traditional and or contemporary works by American Indians, and describe subject matter and characteristics.
 - VA:CN.10.2a Create works or art about events in home, school, or community life.
 - VA:CN.11.2a Compare and contrast cultural uses of artwork from different times and places, including traditional and/or contemporary works by American Indians

RETURN THIS FORM SHOULD YOU WANT TO OPT OUT YOUR STUDENT(S) FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR OF HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION.

NO FORM IS NEEDED SHOULD YOU NOT WANT TO OPT OUT YOUR STUDENT(S) FOR HUMAN SEXUALITY INSTRUCTION.

Human Sexuality Instruction Opt-Out Form
Annual Form for the entire: Current School Year

A family who does not want their student to receive human sexuality instruction at school may request to opt out of such instruction by completing this form.

I, _____, Parent or Guardian of the following student(s):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

The above name(s) is/are a student enrolled at Savage Public School District, that I request my student(s) not receive human sexuality instruction for the duration of the **2023-2024** school year in a manner consistent with the unexcused absence methods identified by the School District as specified in Section 20-5-103, MCA.

I understand my student(s) will not attend any courses, special events, student assemblies where human sexuality instruction occurs. I also understand my student will not receive any services from school district staff regarding human sexuality instruction that may include but are not limited to individual services from teachers, librarians, nurses, or counselors that may related to human sexuality. A student seeking such services will be redirected to the parent in accordance with the decision noted on this form.

I acknowledge I have received notification of my rights in this area under Section 20-7-120, MCA, and have been provided an opportunity to review related information and materials on this topic.

I may withdraw this opt out in writing at any time.

Parent

Date

Received by:

School Official

Date

Shawn Conradsen, Chair
Charles (Chuck) Thiel, Vice Chair

Connie Smith, Trustee
Wayne Quinnell, Trustee
Chandi Tombre, Trustee