

## **FAQs for proposed high school curriculum**

### **Do parents and/or guardians need to be informed if their child is to receive sex education instruction?**

Yes. Parents provide permission (opt-in) for their children to take SHARE classes during online registration. Also, parents are notified in writing and/or Connect Ed calls/texts/emails when the SHARE curriculum will be taught. Parents may review the materials, which are available online <https://www.washoeschools.net/Domain/483>

### **How was the proposed high school curriculum put together?**

The proposed curriculum began with input from district high school Health teachers, members of the Student Advisory Council, and community resource providers who work with teens around the topic of reproductive health.

This information is compiled from facts provided by local organizations including the Nevada Public Health Foundation, Washoe County Health District, and UNR Human Development and Family Studies, among others. WCSD Teachers do not use a textbook for SHARE, and instead use lesson plans provided by WCSD. These plans cover information gathered from a variety of medically accurate publications and textbooks.

The lessons are meant to allow for student input and questions, like any other lesson presented in school, to allow for maximum understanding and comprehension.

### **What are the differences between the current high school curriculum and the proposed high school curriculum?**

Many lessons and topics covered in the current high school curriculum are included in the proposed curriculum including abstinence and birth control methods, STIs and HIV awareness and prevention, and pregnancy outcomes. The proposed curriculum includes more discussion and guidance on consent, sexual seduction/assault, and online safety. It also includes information on gender inclusivity.

The proposed curriculum endeavors to improve upon current lessons to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth have access to information crucial to their health and well-being, since research/statistics show that LGBTQ youth have less access to credible resources and information. Lessons also address students with disabilities.

### **Why is the WCSD proposing these changes?**

The Board of Trustees tasked the District with revising the current sex education curriculum, which had not been updated since 2003.

According to District Policy 6140: “The focus of the District’s Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) program is to assist students in making informed choices and avoid behaviors that put them at risk. The District’s Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education (“S.H.A.R.E.”) program has been developed to:

- i. Be developmentally appropriate;
- ii. Be medically accurate;
- iii. Be culturally sensitive;
- iv. Provide strategies to support all students, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
- v. Be consistent and compliant with state and federal laws; and
- vi. Provide a foundation of knowledge and skills related to human development, relationships, decision-making, consent, abstinence, contraceptives, and disease prevention.”

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email the SHARE Coordinator directly.

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