

May 2012

To: School District Administrators  
CESA Administrators  
Other interested parties

From: Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Assistant State Superintendent  
Division for Learning Support

Re: Recent changes to statute on human growth and development instruction

Recent legislation has resulted in key changes to Wisconsin Statute section 118.019. These changes are effective immediately. In summary, the changes are as follows.

Most human growth and development topics listed in the previous statute language are now recommended rather than required. If human growth and development instruction is provided, seven topics must be taught, when age-appropriate, in the same course during the same year. These topics are:

- Abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried pupils;
- Abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases;
- Medically accurate information about human papilloma virus (HPV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS);
- Pregnancy, prenatal development, and childbirth;
- Parental responsibility and the socio-economic benefits of marriage;
- Criminal penalties for engaging in sexual activities involving a child; and
- Sex offender registration requirements, reporting, and implications.

Nothing in the revised statute prohibits instruction regarding contraception and barrier methods to prevent sexually transmitted infections nor instruction that is abstinence-centered.

In addition to the instructional program content, requirements regarding the district human growth and development advisory committee structure have also changed. Other than parents, no other membership category may comprise more than one-fifth of the membership. School district board members, employees, or families of employees may not make up more than one quarter of the membership.

Also, many districts utilize community health care or public health organizations to provide human growth and development instruction. The revised statute requires speakers to be paid staff of an organization or the district rather than volunteers. The use of volunteer health care providers for human growth and development instruction is prohibited in the revised statute.

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In general, the quality human growth and development curricula that Wisconsin schools are using to ensure students have the knowledge and skills they need for lifelong health will not be impacted by this new language.

A copy of the revised statute is available on the Wisconsin Legislature's web site at:  
<http://docs.legis.wi.gov/statutes/statutes/118/019>.

For more specific information on the content in the statute, or answers to frequently asked questions, go to <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/aidshiv.html>. If you have additional questions or would like to discuss curriculum revision or professional development for your staff, please contact Lori Stern, HIV/AIDS and Safe School Consultant, at (608)264-9550 or by email at [lori.stern@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:lori.stern@dpi.wi.gov).