



October 18, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of the Revisions to the Health Education Policy.

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Health Education Policy.

This policy is a first reading of the revisions to this policy.

Description: These revisions to the Health Education Policy to are being presented to align the policy with the school district's current practices in accordance with state and federal law.

Supporting Data: Redline of the Health Education Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Salim", is written over the typed name.

Kenneth N. Salim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

HEALTH EDUCATION

Good health depends upon continuous life-long attention to scientific advances and the acquisition of new knowledge.

The School Committee believes that the greatest opportunity for effective health education lies within the public schools because of their potential to reach children at the age when positive, lifelong health habits are best engendered and because the schools are equipped to provide qualified personnel to conduct health education programs.

The School Committee is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program as an integral part of each student's general education. Health education will be taught as a separate academic discipline in grades K through 5 and as a separate class in grades 7 through 12 and 8.

The health education program will be taught using effective research-proven programs and be based on the Massachusetts Health Frameworks emphasize a contemporary approach to the presentation of health information, skills, and the knowledge necessary for students to understand and appreciate the functioning and proper care of the human body. Students also will be presented with information regarding complex social, physical and mental health problems, which they might encounter in society. In an effort to help students make intelligent choices on alternative behavior of serious personal consequence, health education will examine the potential health hazards of social, physical and mental problems existing in the larger school-community environment.

In order to promote a relevant, dynamic approach to the instruction of health education, the School Committee will continue to stress the need for curricular, personnel, and financial commitments that are necessary to assure the high quality of the school district's health education program.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L.c. 71, §1

Adopted: June 16, 2009