

Frequently Asked Questions about Health Education in Kansas

Are the National Standards used in the Kansas' Health Education Standards?

The National Standards were used and followed in the development of the Kansas' Health Education Standards.

Is Health Education required to be taught at both the elementary and secondary level?

QPA Regulation 91-31-32 (9-G) states: Each school shall be assigned its accreditation status based upon the extent to which the school has met the performance and quality criteria established by the state board of education in this regulation. The quality criteria shall consist of quality measures, which shall be required to be in place at each school. Programs and services to support student learning and growth at both the elementary and secondary levels include physical education, which shall include instruction in health and human sexuality.

Is Health Education required to be taught at the high school level?

QPA Regulations 91-31-35 (A-5) states: Each local board of education shall adopt a written policy specifying that pupils are eligible for graduation only upon completion of one unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology. It is up to the local school district to determine the amount of health that is to be included to meet the graduation requirement.

Is Human Sexuality Education required to be taught?

QPA Regulation 91-31-32 (9-G) states: Each school shall be assigned its accreditation status based upon the extent to which the school has met the performance and quality criteria established by the state board of education in this regulation. The quality criteria shall consist of quality measures, which shall be required to be in place at each school. Programs and services to support student learning and growth at both the elementary and secondary levels include physical education, which shall include instruction in health and human sexuality. Local school control determines content and extent of human sexuality education.

Are Schools required to offer Opt-in or Opt-Out policy for students in human sexuality education?

Local school districts determine if they wish to offer the opt-in or the opt-out policy for student in human sexuality education.

How to Use the Standards

The Kansas Health Education Standards are to be used to plan and implement K-12 health education in Kansas schools. Although health education is non-assessed in the Kansas Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) guidelines, it is an important content area. This document provides an outline of recommendations for quality health education instruction for Kansas students.

The Health Education Standards Committee believes that parents should be involved with the health education of their children. Parents are encouraged to visit with their school's health teachers about the health topics that will be covered in class, and to talk with their children about these health issues.

For further information or questions, please contact:

Dr. Mark Thompson, 785-296-1473, mathompson@ksde.org