



Family Life Education 4.213.1p

LAST REVIEWED: September 2019

Standard Operating Procedure Outline

<i>Category:</i>	Instructional Services	<i>Department:</i>	Curriculum & Instruction		
<i>Procedure:</i>	Family Life Education				
<i>Policy Reference # :</i>	4.213	<i>Version:</i>	2.0	<i>Date Revised:</i>	September 20, 2019

Operational Objective(s)

To explain the process for addressing the Tennessee standards and objectives for Family Life Education, in compliance with the stipulations provided in the Tennessee Code Annotated.

Procedure

- A. Family Life Education (FLE)** is a comprehensive sexuality education program which emphatically promotes and encourages abstinence and shall not promote, implicitly or explicitly, any gateway sexual activity or health message that encourages students to experiment with noncoital sexual activity. However, the program shall also focus on providing students with knowledge regarding the male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections/diseases (STIs/STDs), healthy and unhealthy relationships, self-esteem, and contraception.
1. **Grades 7-8:** FLE may be taught through existing health classes, science classes or guest presentations.
 - a. Middle school health teachers, middle school science teachers, school counselors and any guest presenters shall follow the Tennessee Health Education Standards and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching FLE
 - b. The health teacher, science teacher, school counselor and/or principal can coordinate with approved community resource agencies, including school nurses contracted by MNPS, to deliver FLE information in grades 7-8.
 - c. Any guest presentations must be initiated by a health teacher, science teacher, school counselor or principal.
 2. **Grades 9-12:** FLE shall be taught as part of the lifetime wellness course. Portions of FLE may be taught as part of the anatomy and physiology course, family and consumer sciences courses and health sciences courses.
 - a. Lifetime Wellness teachers, Anatomy & Physiology teachers, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, Health Sciences teachers, school counselors and all guest presenters, including school nurses contracted by MNPS, shall follow the Tennessee

Standards relative to their courses and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching FLE.

- b. Any guest presentations, relative to FLE, shall be initiated **ONLY** by a Lifetime Wellness teacher, Anatomy & Physiology teacher, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Health Sciences teacher, school counselor or principal.
3. **Contraception:** TCA 49-6-1304 prohibits the distribution of contraception on school property, however medically accurate information about contraception and condoms may be provided so long as it is presented in a manner that clearly informs students that while such methods may reduce the risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases or becoming pregnant, the potential for sexually transmitted disease and/or pregnancy remains with any method other than abstinence.
 - a. MNPS policy does NOT allow actual contraceptives to be displayed in the classroom.
 - b. Health and lifetime wellness teachers, school counselors or guest presenters shall follow the Tennessee Health and Lifetime Wellness Standards and comply with TCA and MNPS policy when teaching contraception.
4. **Sexually Transmitted Infections/Diseases (including HIV/AIDS) Testing On School Property:** With the exception of school-based health clinics, testing for sexually transmitted infections/diseases, including HIV/AIDS, is NOT allowed on school property.
5. **Abortion:** TCA 68-1-1205 prohibits abortion referrals and/or the encouragement of and/or advocacy for abortions.
6. **Adoption:** TCA 49-6-1304 requires informing students about the process of adoption and its benefits through the use of guidelines distributed by the Tennessee Department of Education.
7. **Child Abuse and Human Trafficking:** TCA 49-6-1304 requires instruction on child sexual abuse, including such abuse that may occur in the home, and human trafficking in which the victim is a child.

B. Parent and Guardian Notification & Permission Letter

1. Parents and guardians must be provided a convenient opportunity to preview all materials to be used in teaching FLE units (e.g., during Open House events or other times at least thirty days prior to teaching).
2. At least thirty days prior to teaching the FLE units, an active permission letter (see Appendix A) must be sent home and returned with a parent or guardian signature. The permission letter must inform the parent or guardian of the content to be covered and any materials (e.g., videos, texts, printed material, guest speakers) used to supplement the instruction. In addition, the permission letter must inform the parent or guardian of their option to exclude their child from any portion of the FLE units without penalty.
 - a. A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse their child from any or all portions of the FLE units shall indicate their preference on the permission letter and submit it to the student's health or lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor (middle school only) and the principal (the attached permission letter would qualify as the "written request").
 - b. Students are not allowed to attend any portion of the FLE lessons without a written permission letter from the parent/guardian.

- c. If a parent or guardian provides neither written permission to participate in the class nor a written request to remove the student from the class, the student shall NOT be permitted in the class.
3. Any child whose parent or guardian chooses to opt out of this portion of the course shall be allowed to complete alternate health or wellness-related assignments. Provided the assignments are completed in a timely and satisfactory manner, the student shall not endure penalty.
4. Appendix A and B shall be used by all Health, Lifetime Wellness teachers, school counselors and principals. Anatomy and Physiology teachers, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, Health Sciences Teachers and middle school Science teachers should modify the attached form to reflect the content covered within their course.

C. Preview of Materials

All materials, relative to FLE, must be previewed and approved by the middle school health or science teacher, lifetime wellness teacher, anatomy & physiology teacher, family and consumer sciences teachers, health sciences teachers, school counselor (if initiating a guest presentation) and the school's principal prior to use in the classroom.

D. Approved Guest Speakers/Presenters/Community Resource Agencies

1. Middle school Health teachers, Lifetime Wellness teachers, Anatomy & Physiology teachers, Family and Consumer sciences teachers and Health Sciences teachers, school counselors and/or principals shall use ONLY approved community resource presenters.
2. Community resource agencies are approved through an MNPS FLE review committee comprised of the Lead Instructor for Health, Wellness and Physical Education and a team of lifetime wellness teachers and a high school principal.
3. Approved community resource agencies are provided to health and lifetime wellness teachers, middle school Science teachers, Anatomy & Physiology teachers, Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, Health Sciences teachers, school counselors and principals, each year, by the Lead Instructor of Health, Wellness and Physical Education. Agencies that are approved by the district should not invite the media to presentations in an MNPS school unless they have approval from the district's Communications office.

E. Safe Haven Law

TCA 68-11-255 also known as the Safe Have Law, describes the procedure for surrendering custody of unwanted infant without criminal liability. This information should be included in the middle school health class (grades 7-8) and lifetime wellness course (grades 9-12).

Performance Measure/Accountability

Continuous evaluation of procedure to ensure compliance with all regulations

References/Authority

TCA § 49-6-1008

TCA § 49-6-1301

TCA § 49-6-1302

TCA § 49-6-1303

TCA § 49-6-1304

TCA § 68-11-255

TCA § 68-1-1205

Family Life Education Law of 198

Middle School FLE Permission Letter

To: Parents of 7th and 8th grade Students

From: (Insert instructor's name), Middle School Health Teacher or School Counselor

RE: Family Life Education

(Insert date)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

According to Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1008, 49-6-1301, 49-6-1302, 49-6-1303, 49-6-1304, 68-1-1205, 68-11-255 and the Family Life Education Law of 1989: Family Life Education is mandatory; HIV/AIDS Prevention Education is mandatory; students shall be educated about the Safe Haven Law; parents and guardians shall have convenient opportunities to preview all materials used in teaching the Family Life Education Curriculum Standards; parents and guardians are given the option of having their child excused from this portion of the curriculum and given comparable independent health-related assignments. A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse their child from ANY or ALL portions of the family life instruction shall indicate on this permission letter and submit to the student's health teacher or lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor and school's principal.

The content could include the following: the male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS). Specifically, the male and female reproductive systems will include the anatomy & physiology of reproductive organs and glands, the types and causes of disorders and diseases/infections, and ways of keeping the reproductive systems healthy. The pregnancy unit will include information on the entire pregnancy process from conception until birth. While abstinence will be the primary focus of the lesson, there will be information regarding contraception. However, actual contraceptive methods are NOT allowed in the classroom and are NOT allowed for distribution on school property. The sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS unit will cover material regarding the types of STIs, symptoms, modes of transmission, methods of treatment and prevention measures. With the exception of school-based health clinics, testing for any sexually transmitted infection/disease (including HIV/AIDS) is prohibited on school property. Your child's health teacher or school counselor could coordinate with approved community resource agencies to deliver portions of the Family Life Education Curriculum Standards.

If you have any questions or concerns, call _____ or email _____.

Please sign and indicate your preference below. **This form must be signed and returned by _____.**

Sincerely,

(Insert teacher's name or school counselor's name)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

_____ YES, my child will participate fully in the Lifetime Wellness class including units on the reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI units.

_____ NO, my child will NOT participate in the *reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI* units (circle the units in which the student will not participate). I understand that I must submit a request to the teacher and principal. I understand that my child will receive alternate health-related assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.

To: Parents of Lifetime Wellness Students
From: (Insert Instructor's Name), Lifetime Wellness Teacher

RE: Family Life Education

(Insert date)

Dear Parents,

According to Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 49-6-1008, 49-6-1301, 49-6-1302, 49-6-1303, 49-6-1304, 68-1-1205, 68-11-255 and the Family Life Education Law of 1989: Family Life Education is mandatory; HIV/AIDS Prevention Education is mandatory; students shall be educated about the Safe Haven Law. Parents and guardians shall have convenient opportunities to preview all materials used in teaching the Family Life Education Curriculum Standards; parents and guardians are given the option of having their child excused from this portion of the curriculum and given comparable independent wellness-related assignments. A parent or guardian who wishes to excuse a student from ANY or ALL portions of the family life instruction shall indicate on this letter and submit it to the student's lifetime wellness teacher, school counselor and the school's principal.

The male and female reproductive systems, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (including HIV/AIDS) will be taught as part of the Tennessee Lifetime Wellness Curriculum Standards beginning (insert date). Specifically, the units of the male and female reproductive systems will encompass the anatomy & physiology of reproductive organs and glands, the types and causes of disorders and diseases/infections, and ways of keeping the reproductive systems healthy.

The pregnancy unit will include information on the entire pregnancy process from conception until birth. While abstinence will be the primary focus of the lesson, there will be information on methods of contraception. However, actual contraceptive methods are NOT allowed in the classroom and are NOT allowed for distribution on school property.

The sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS unit will cover material regarding the types of STIs, symptoms, modes of transmission, methods of treatment, and prevention measures. With the exception of school based health clinics, testing for any sexually transmitted infection/disease (including HIV/AIDS) is prohibited on school property. Your child's lifetime wellness teacher or school counselor could coordinate with approved community resource agencies to deliver portions of the Family Life Education Curriculum Standards.

If you have any questions or concerns, call _____ or email _____.

Please sign and indicate your preference below. **This form must be signed and returned by _____.**

Sincerely,

(Insert teacher's name)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

_____ YES, my child will participate fully in the Lifetime Wellness class including units on the reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI units.

_____ NO, my child will NOT participate in the *reproductive systems, pregnancy and STI* units (circle the units in which the student will not participate). I understand that I must submit a request to the teacher and principal. I understand that my child will receive alternate health-related assignments and will be responsible for the completion of all independent work.