

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 12.

The health education program will emphasize a contemporary approach to the presentation of health information, skills, and the knowledge necessary for students, as they are developmentally ready, to understand and appreciate the functioning and proper care of the human body, not only the physical, but also the intellectual, mental and the social emotional. The ten basic areas of health include the following: Family & Social Health; Growth & Development; Personal Health & Physical Activity; Nutrition, Mental & Emotional Health; Nutrition, Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs; Consumer & Community Health; Communicable Diseases; Environmental Health; Injury Prevention & Safety. Students 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 system's health education program.

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