

**AIDS INSTRUCTION**

The County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) poses a public health crisis. At the present time, society's most effective weapon against the spread of the deadly disease is public education.

In the course of living their daily lives, our students will come into contact with people who have AIDS. Therefore, the County Office of Education's health education program will include factual information about AIDS and how the disease is transmitted. Students must be told what voluntary behaviors result in infection and also be motivated to prevent infection by making wise decisions in their daily lives.

Instruction must be appropriate to the grade level of the students receiving it. The County Board and County Superintendent particularly desire that students receive proper AIDS education before they reach the age when they may adopt behaviors that put them at risk of contracting AIDS.

For AIDS instruction to be most effective, the Superintendent or designee will ensure that staff members who present this instruction receive continuing inservice training, including appropriate teaching strategies and techniques.

Parents/guardians and community members representing divergent viewpoints should have input into the selection and/or development of instructional materials to be used in AIDS instruction. The curriculum shall be updated regularly.

In cooperation with local health agencies, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide a program of orientation and information about AIDS and the AIDS instructional program for parents/guardians and interested members of the community. This program shall include the opportunity to examine all instructional materials before they are used with our students. (Education Code 51550, 51820)

Before students receive AIDS instruction, parents/guardians shall be notified in accordance with state law and County Board policy. Alternative study arrangements shall be made for students whose parents/guardians ask that they not receive such instruction.

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE**51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety**51203 Instruction on alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs**51240 Excuse from health instruction and family life and sex education due to religious beliefs**51550 Sex education courses**51820 Venereal disease instruction*

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