



CALIFORNIA HEALTHY YOUTH ACT (CHYA) FAQs

California Department of Education & Bonita Unified School District

What is the California Healthy Youth Act?

The California Healthy Youth Act is a state law that says districts must ensure that students in grades seven through 12 receive instruction covering human growth and development, including comprehensive sexual health education as well as HIV prevention education. Each student must receive this instruction at least once in middle school and at least once in high school.

The law spells out five primary goals:

1. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy;
2. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family;
3. To promote an understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development;
4. To ensure pupils receive integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention instruction and provide educators with clear tools and guidance to accomplish that end;
5. To provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors.

Are schools required to teach comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education?

Yes. The California Healthy Youth Act requires that students in grades 7-12 receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education at least once in middle school and once in high school. Bonita Unified will provide instruction in grades 7 and 9. The Education Code defines comprehensive sexual health education as “education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on pregnancy, contraception, and sexually transmitted infections” (EC § 51931(b)) and HIV prevention education as “instruction on the nature of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS, methods of transmission, strategies to reduce the risk of HIV infection, and social and public health issues related to HIV and AIDS” (EC § 51931(d)).

Can parents opt out of sex education lessons?

Yes. The law makes it clear that parents can opt their children out of comprehensive sex education.

According to the language in AB 329, “The Legislature recognizes that while parents and guardians overwhelmingly support medically accurate, comprehensive sex education, parents and guardians have the ultimate responsibility for imparting values regarding human sexuality to their children.” Parents should write or email their child’s school principal to opt-out of instruction.

What curriculum will be taught?

The curriculum selected for grade seven is *Teen Talk*. For high school, the chosen curriculum is *Positive Prevention Plus*.

Can parents view materials prior to instruction?

Yes. All materials will be available for parents to view at least two weeks before instruction. Materials will be available in your schools’ front office or at the District Office.

Are districts required to use the California Health Education Framework when developing lessons for students?

No. The *Health Education Framework* is a guidance document for teachers and administrators in implementing California’s K-12 health standards. There are no mandates that require schools to use the *Health Education Framework*.

Will boys and girls be segregated during this instruction?

No. At the secondary level (both middle and high school), the law requires integrated instruction.

Does the law require the teachers to be trained?

Yes. Comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education must be taught by instructors trained in the appropriate courses. (EC §§ 51934(a), (b).) This means that instructors must have knowledge of the most recent medically accurate research on human sexuality, healthy relationships, pregnancy, and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. (EC § 51931(e).)

Where should I direct further questions?

Your student’s school site administrator will be able to provide clear and specific answers to questions regarding materials and timelines for instruction. If you should need additional information, please contact the Educational Services Department at the District Office.