

POLICY 533.1 SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

I. PURPOSE

Students who receive relevant education and referral information that is individually responsive to his/her need have higher graduation rates. Cass Lake-Bena School District will provide evidence based practices that support the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV) and unintended pregnancy.

II. Evidence Based Practice: Sexual Health Education

A. Cass Lake-Bena School District is committed to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors. Therefore, along with the Department of Education; Cass Lake-Bena shall provide developmentally appropriate, medically accurate, culturally sensitive health education to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statute 121A.23 and is aligned with the National Health Education Standards and National Sexuality Education Standards that will:

1. Emphasize skills to delay or refuse sexual intercourse as the surest way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections/diseases including HIV/AIDS;
2. Include skills based education on abstinence, contraception, STI/STD prevention and treatment , as well as, methods to prevent unintended pregnancies;
3. Provide education to support all students regardless of gender, race, religion or spiritual preference, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression;
4. Support students to develop communication skills to form and maintain healthy relationships that are respectful and free from violence, coercion, and intimidation;
5. Support students to learn and practice skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and stress management to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships;
6. Emphasize that parents/guardians are the primary sexuality educators for their child(ren), encourages student communication with parent/guardian and/or other trusted adult about sexuality; and
7. Curriculum provides adequate instruction time; at least 60 hours of health instruction time per academic year, as prescribed in the National Health Education Standards (Joint Committee, 2007).

B. Community partners will be utilized to support the goals and standards of the curriculum by providing education to students.

- C. All parents will be provided opportunity to preview curriculum prior to instruction and may opt student out of instruction for any reason per Minnesota Statute 120B.20. The teacher will make alternative instruction plans in coordination with parent/guardian.
- D. The district will allocate time for classroom teachers to receive professional development on an annual basis.

III. Evidence Based Practice: Sexual Health Referrals

This policy is intended to provide student access to healthcare that addresses sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV) and unintended pregnancies.

A. Access to Confidential Services

- 1. In accordance with Minnesota Statute 144.343: *Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat pregnancy and conditions associated therewith, venereal disease, alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.*
- 2. Students may access the above services noted in Minnesota Statute 144.343 without parental consent or notification.
- 3. The district notifies parents and students of Minnesota Statute 144.343 and this policy.
- 4. Designated staff such as the school nurse, social worker, counselor, and principal will refer students to be released from school in order to meet the student’s health need.
- 5. Students will be encouraged by school staff to communicate with their parent/guardian or another trusted adult.

B. Professional Development

- 1. All district staff receives information on Minnesota Statute 144.343.
- 2. Designated referral staff will receive the most up-to-date training on how to make confidential student referrals.

Legal References: Minn. Statute 121A.23
Minn. Statute 120B.20
Minn. Statute 144.343

Local References: National Health Education Standards
National Sexuality Education Standards