

Maria Montessori Academy
Policy: Sex Education Instruction Policy
Approved: November 13, 2018



Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Sex Education Curriculum taught at Maria Montessori Academy (the "School") is compliant with state law. The School will comply with applicable state law regarding the presentation of sex education instruction or instructional programs.

"Sex education instruction or instructional programs" means any course, unit, class, activity or presentation that provides instruction or information to students about sexual abstinence, human sexuality, human reproduction, reproductive anatomy, physiology, pregnancy, marriage, childbirth, parenthood, contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, or refusal skills, as defined in Utah Code § 53G-10-402. While these topics are most likely discussed in courses such as health education, health occupations, human biology, physiology, parenting, adult roles, psychology, sociology, child development, and biology, this policy applies to any course or class in which these topics are the focus of discussion.

Every two years the Board of Directors will (a) review this policy; and (b) review data for the county in which the School is located regarding teen pregnancy, child sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections, and the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported in the School.

Signature:

Preston Allen, Board President

Date

Administrative Procedures Sex Education Instruction Procedures

These administrative procedures are established pursuant to the Sex Education Instruction Policy adopted by the School's Board of Directors.

In accordance with state law, all sex education instruction or instructional programs will comply with the requirements of Utah Code § 53G-10-402 through -403 and Utah Admin Code R277-474. Specifically, the School will:

- teach sexual abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for preventing certain communicable diseases;
- teach personal skills that encourage individual choice of abstinence and fidelity; and
- obtain prior parental consent before any sex education instruction, maturation education, or other instructional program.

The Director will establish a curriculum materials review committee composed of parents, schools employees, and others selected by the Director. If possible, the committee will also include health professionals and school health educators. The committee will have at least as many parents as school employees. The committee will select officers and is subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act. The School's Board of Directors will review and approve the membership of the committee on or before August 1 each year. If the School's Board of Directors is composed of a majority of parents, it may elect to act as the committee.

The curriculum materials review committee will meet on a regular basis, as determined by the members of the committee, select officers for the committee and designate a committee chair, and comply with the Open and Public Meetings Act. The committee will review and make recommendations to the School's Board of Directors regarding instructional materials to be used by the School in connection with sex education instruction or a maturation education program. Program materials and guest speakers supporting instruction on these topics must also be reviewed and approved by the curriculum materials review committee.

Instructional materials used by the School in connection with sex education instruction or a maturation education program must be approved by the School's Board of Directors. These materials will comply with the requirements of applicable law and will be available for parents to review for a reasonable period of time prior to consideration for adoption by the Board of Directors.

The following topics may not be taught in the School:

- The intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
- The advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices;

- or
- The advocacy of premarital or extramarital activity.

The School will comply with the Utah Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Utah Code § 53E-9-202 through -203 and obtain parental consent prior to any sex education instruction, maturation education, or other instructional program. At no time will a student be in the classroom during any sex education instruction, maturation education, or other instructional program unless an approval form signed by the student's parent/guardian is on file. The parental notification form will:

- a) explain a parent's right to review proposed curriculum materials in a timely manner;
- b) request the parent's permission to instruct the parent's student in identified course material related to sex education or maturation education;
- c) allow the parent to exempt the parent's student from attendance for a class period where identified course material related to sex education instruction or maturation education is presented and discussed;
- d) be specific enough to give parents fair notice of topics to be covered;
- e) include a brief explanation of the topics and materials to be presented and provide a time, place and contact person for review of the identified curricular materials;
- f) be retained on file with affirmative parental consent for each student prior to the student's participation in discussion of issues protected under Section 53G-10-402; and
- g) be maintained at the School for a reasonable period of time.

Instructors may not intentionally elicit comments or questions about matters subject to parental consent requirements. Additionally, instructors' responses to questions spontaneously raised by students must be brief, factual, objective and in harmony with content requirements of this policy and state law. Responses must also be age appropriate and limited in scope to that reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

The School will ensure that all educators with any responsibility for any aspect of sex education instruction will receive appropriate professional development outlining the sex education curriculum and the criteria for sex education instruction. The School will ensure that educators receive this professional development at least once every three years. Additionally, the School will ensure that such educators are familiar with requirements of the Utah Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.