



---

## **Sex Education Policy**

### **A. Legal Authority/Requirement**

- 53G-10-402 School District of Residence Determination
- R277-474 School Instruction and Sex Education

### **B. Purpose/Philosophy**

The Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (AMES) Board of Trustees recognizes that the primary responsibility for sex education rests with a student's primary caregivers. The Governing Board also recognizes its responsibility, as outlined by Utah law and regulation to provide an appropriate, supportive and factual sex education curriculum for students.

### **C. Definitions**

1. "Sex Education Instruction" means:
  - a. any course material, unit, class, lesson, activity or presentation that provides instruction or information to students about sexual abstinence, human reproduction, reproductive anatomy, physiology, pregnancy, marriage, childbirth, parenthood, contraception, HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. While these topics are most likely discussed in such courses as health education, health occupations, human biology, physiology, parenting, adult roles, psychology, sociology, child development and biology, this rule applies to any course or class in which these topics are the focus of discussion.
2. "Medically Accurate" means:
  - a. verified or supported by a body of research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in journals that have received peer review (where appropriate), and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the American Medical Association.

3. "Sex Education Curriculum Materials Review Committee" means:
  - a. An AMES Board of Trustees committee that includes parents, school health educators and administrators.

4. "Parental Notification Form" means:

a form developed by the Utah State Board of Education and used for parental notification of subject matter related to sex education instruction. Students may not participate in sex education instruction without prior affirmative parent/guardian response on file.

#### **D. Health and Sex Education Guidelines**

1. The AMES Board of Trustees adopts for use:
  - a. sex education instructional materials recommended by the Utah State Board of Education.
  - b. Any additional materials as approved by the AMES Sex Education Curriculum Materials Review Committee.
2. All sex education shall stress the importance of abstinence from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods of preventing sexually transmitted diseases.
3. The curriculum and education shall also stress personal skills that encourage the individual choice of abstinence and fidelity in marriage.
4. Nothing in this policy precludes an educator from responding to a spontaneous question provided that the response is consistent with this policy and applicable state law.
5. The following ***shall not be taught*** in any district schools:
  - a. The intricacies of intercourse, sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
  - b. The advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity;
  - c. The advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices

#### **E. Teacher Responsibilities**

AMES requires that any teacher who is responsible for any aspect of sex education will:

1. Complete a state-sponsored sex education training every three years and provide a copy of their certificate to school administration.
2. Assure that any instructional materials used in any sex education instruction are medically accurate and comply with state law, Utah Administrative Code and are approved by either the USBE or the AMES Review Committee.
3. Assure that they review all instructional materials for guest speakers, guest presenters or outside agencies and ensure that they comply with state law, Utah Administrative Code and are approved by the AMES Review Committee.

4. Complete parent permissions for any sex education instruction presented in class up to two weeks in advance.
5. Save and file parent permission forms for one-year.
6. Assure that as a teacher, they are in the room for any sex education instruction that takes place in their classroom.
7. Report any complaints or concerns that are received about sex education programs, policies or materials, which have not been resolved by the teacher or school administration to the Board of Trustees or the AMES Review Committee following established policies.

**F. Sex Education Curriculum Materials Review Committee**

1. The AMES Board of Trustees may also appoint a Sex Education Curriculum Materials Review Committee with jurisdiction over materials, programs, resources and guest speakers that are not already approved by the USBE..
  - a. The committee shall be composed of parents, health professionals, school health educators and administrators.
2. Duties of the Review Committee:
  - a. Review instructional materials to assure that they are medically accurate and comply with state law and Utah Administrative Code;
  - b. Review instructional materials for guest speakers, special programs and resource agencies used in any sex education presentation to assure they are medically accurate and comply with state law and Utah Administrative Code;
  - c. Hear appeals, complaints or other special matters pertaining to existing sex education programs, policies or materials that have not been resolved at the school level;
  - d. Submit a written report to the board which summarizes the work performed by the committee if any complaints or concerns were received related to sex education instruction or instructional programs.

**G. Parental Permission Form Required for Participation**

1. Students may not participate in any sex education instruction or instructional programs unless prior to the student's participation the student's parent or guardian authorizes the student to participate.
2. Completed permission forms shall be maintained at the school for a one-year period or

until the course is taught the following academic year.

3. AMES will utilize the *Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Sex Education Instruction* which:
  - a. Explains a parent's right to review proposed curriculum materials in a timely manner;
  - b. Requests the parent's permission to instruct their student in identified course material related to sex education;
  - c. Allows the parent to exempt their student from attendance for class periods while identified course material related to sex education is presented and discussed;
  - d. Is specific enough to give parents fair notice of topics to be covered;
  - e. Includes a brief explanation of the topics and materials to be presented and provides a time, place and contact person for a review of the identified curricular materials;
6. If a student is exempted from the course material required by the Board-approved core curriculum, the parent will take responsibility in cooperation with the teacher and the school for the student learning the required course material.
  - a. In addition, the student will receive an alternative assignment of equal value and will be expected to complete that assignment.
  - b. The student will be provided a safe, supervised place within the school during this class. It will be the student's responsibility to report to the pre-arranged location, check-in with the teacher or supervisor and submit the completed assignment to the appropriate person.

#### **H. Instructional Staff Training**

1. In their first year of service or assignment, all newly hired or newly assigned district staff who have responsibility for any aspect of sex education instruction at AMES must participate in a state-sponsored training outlining the sex education curriculum and the criteria for sex education instruction in any courses offered.
2. Staff who have any responsibility for any aspect of sex education instruction at AMES will attend state-sponsored training outlining the sex education curriculum and the criteria for sex education instruction in any courses offered at least once every three (3) years.

---

Document History:

Initial Complete Policy May 12, 2021