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From: **LibertyMoms Duval** <momsforlibertyduval@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 12:27 PM

Subject: Questions RE Health Lessons & District Website Content

To: <greened@duvalschools.org>, <willied@duvalschools.org>, <cokerk@duvalschools.org>, <andersene1@duvalschools.org>, Hershey, Lori O. <hershey@duvalschools.org>, Pearson, Cynthia H. <pearsonc1@duvalschools.org>, <joycec@duvalschools.org>, <Jonesw2@duvalschools.org>

Dear Dr. Greene and School Board Members,

Please accept this email as a follow up regarding information that was covered last night at the Regular School Board Meeting.

Background:

The District and School Board Members have stated that parents can see all of the health lessons online, so that they can choose to opt out if they want.

The district website states that the 5th Grade Puberty Education lesson is called the *Always Changing Program* provided by Procter & Gamble.

A statement reads, "All materials are available for preview including the lesson guide and videos that are shown to boys and girls."

However, when a parent clicks on the link provided, the URL no longer works.

Additionally, a district leader, Frannie Kendall, sent an email last Spring which states:

"We are no longer using the Always Changing program and have shifted to HealthSmart lessons."

Questions:

- Does DCPS use the Always Changing puberty curriculum, or not?
- If yes, when can parents have access to a working link on the district website?
- If not, why is this information still posted online?
- If not, when will the district website be updated so that parents have access to accurate information?

Background:

The District and School Board Members have stated that Duval County teachers only teach to state standards when it comes to health education.

On April 12, 2022, Dr. Greene stated to the School Board: "We do not teach anything about gender identity or sexual orientation to even beyond Grade 3. Everything that is in our curriculum is aligned to the Florida State Standards. Even for Human Growth and Development Course, we're not teaching any of those."

However, the HealthSmart curriculum includes a 5th Grade Health Lesson which is titled Gender Roles & Expression, which teaches ten-year-olds about gender identity (and is riddled with gender stereotypes). This has been shared with the Board and confirmed by district leaders more than once.

The district website provides a link for parents to see all of the Course Standards. This link takes the user to the CPALMS website. While we aren't not sure, our members are guessing that CPALMS is the resource for understanding state standards. Please correct us if we are mistaken. Most district website users do not know what CPALMS is, or readily understand how to interpret and/or apply the list of 45 standards to the limited information made available on the district's website. (Parents just want to see the actual lessons and instructor materials.)

According to the CPALMS website, there is absolutely no state standard related to Gender Identity or Gender Expression.

<https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/4710>

Health - Grade 5 (#5008070)

Version for Academic Year:

2014 - 2015

2015 - 2022

2022 - And Beyond (current)

Export Print Create CMAP

Course Standards 45

Course Information

Educator Certifications 5

Student Resources 62

677 Resources related to the standards in this course

Click on the individual standards to find resources

Course Standards

The following standards focus on yearly instruction to ensure that students gain adequate exposure to health information and practices. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade specific benchmarks and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

Filter and display options

gender Submit Clear

Show Topic/Cluster Show Clarifications Show Color

0 Items

Questions:

What standard is the 5th grade Gender Roles & Expression lesson meeting? If there is a state standard, please specify. If there is another standard the district is meeting, other than FLDOE, please specify that.

If this lesson is not aligned with any required standard, please provide an explanation as to why this lesson was chosen, who selected it, and why it is made available for teachers to teach.

The hope of many parents is that we could trust the information that gets communicated to us.

Yes, parents have the right to opt out. We are simply requesting accurate information so that we can make an educated decision. As we learned last night, the actual information found within these lessons, which is not readily made available to parents, is shocking and inappropriate to many, if not most, parents.

Thank you for your continued effort to improve transparency and meet the needs of a vast array of Duval County stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Moms for Liberty - Duval

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **LibertyMoms Duval** <momsforlibertyduval@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 4:58 PM

Subject: Addendum to Standards Question

To: <greened@duvalschools.org>, <willied@duvalschools.org>, <cokerk@duvalschools.org>, <andersene1@duvalschools.org>, Hershey, Lori O. <hershey@duvalschools.org>, Pearson, Cynthia H. <pearsonc1@duvalschools.org>, <joycec@duvalschools.org>, <Jonesw2@duvalschools.org>

Good Afternoon,

We are offering the added information below as an addendum to our message.

The district has provided a Sequence and Standards Alignment document online here: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/Page/32122>.

We have compared the standards for the *Gender Roles & Expression* course to the actual standards provided in the CPALMs website, and are struggling to see the alignment.

The district's resource states that the Florida State Standards include gender roles. However, the actual referenced standards address smoke-free environments, behavior rules, fresh produce, tobacco, alcohol, skin care, and safety equipment.

Please see the screenshots below.

Gender Roles & Expression Flex

This lesson emphasizes the importance of respecting self-expression in oneself and others. Students read stories about kids their age and discuss whether they think the character is a boy or a girl or unclear and why. They learn terms related to gender roles and expression and discuss why it is important to respect the different ways different people may express themselves around gender. After revisiting a story about a child who is bullied due to gender expression, they create a text message campaign to encourage peers to accept and respect diversity.

Florida State Standards

HE.5.C.1.3 Explain ways a safe, healthy home and school environment promote personal health. (gender roles)

HE.5.C.2.7 Discuss how various cultures can influence personal health beliefs. (gender roles)

HE.5.P.8.1 Persuade others to make positive health choices. (gender roles)

HE.5.C.1.3

Export Print

Benchmark Information

Explain ways a safe, healthy home and school environment promote personal health.

Related Courses 6

Related Access Points 3

Clarifications

Smoke-free environment, clean/orderly environment, behavior rules, and availability of fresh produce.

General Information

Subject Area: Health Education	Grade: 5
Strand: Health Literacy Concepts	
Standard: Core Concepts - Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.	Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14
Status: State Board Approved	

HE.5.C.2.7

Export Print

Benchmark Information

 Related Courses 2

 Related Access Points 3

Discuss how various cultures can influence personal health beliefs.

Clarifications

Food that is healthy and unhealthy for you, health risks from tobacco/alcohol use, and healthy skin care.

General Information

Subject Area: Health Education

Grade: 5

Strand: Health Literacy Concepts

Standard: *Internal and External Influence - Analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.*


Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

Status: State Board Approved

HE.5.P.8.1

Export Print

Benchmark Information

 Related Courses 2

 Related Access Points 3

Persuade others to make positive health choices.

Clarifications

Practice negotiation skills, advocate for a smoke-free environment, and encourage use of safety equipment.

General Information

Subject Area: Health Education

Grade: 5

Strand: Health Literacy Promotion

Standard: *Advocacy - Demonstrate the ability to advocate for individual, peer, school, family, and community health.*

Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

Status: State Board Approved

We look forward to your response.

Best regards,

Moms for Liberty - Duval

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greene, Diana L.** <GreeneD@duvalschools.org>

Date: Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 5:03 PM

Subject: Constituent Services Issue # '2022-90520' (Health Lessons & District Website Content)

To: Moms for Liberty <momsforlibertyduval@gmail.com>

Cc: Hershey, Lori O. <HersheyL@duvalschools.org>, Joyce, Charlotte D. <joycec@duvalschools.org>, Jones, Warren A. <JonesW2@duvalschools.org>, Willie, Darryl D. <WillieD@duvalschools.org>, Coker, Kelly G. <cokerk@duvalschools.org>, Pearson, Cynthia H. <PearsonC1@duvalschools.org>, Andersen, Elizabeth A. <AndersenE1@duvalschools.org>, Renfro, Paula S. <RenfroP@duvalschools.org>

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the Board, I appreciate the opportunity to address the concerns you have presented following the School Board meeting on August 2, 2022. As you know, Duval County Public Schools is committed to providing quality health education instruction. I have discussed the questions outlined in your inquiry with Ms. Heather Albritton, Director of Health & Physical Education. Regarding the website showing use of the *Always Changing* curriculum, Ms. Albritton informed me that this was an oversight by her department—that particular page was missed in the updating of curriculum materials for the 2022-2023 school year. Two additional pages were added to outline details of the curriculum and how to access materials and this was a simple oversight. The district no longer uses the *Always Changing* materials and the website has been updated with accurate information. Thank you for pointing out this error. While the correct information was on the other two pages, you will now find that functional links to the appropriate curriculum are on each site as of this response.

From

an educational standpoint, the “clarification” section in each benchmark is included to provide examples of topics that

could

be included in lessons for that specific standard.

These examples are not exhaustive to the topics or ideas presented, rather a

starting point to expound upon the expectation or skills to be acquired. The standards that are attached to this lesson focus on a range of topics, including

respect, tolerance, diversity, and advocacy. Benchmark HE.5.C.1.3

aligns to this lesson for the purpose of helping students understand the importance of a safe and healthy school environment, (i.e., bully-free),

and understand and tolerate differences in

a respectful manner. Benchmark HE.5.C.2.7

aligns with this lesson to assist students

in understanding the diversity in our school communities.

It

is important that

students know how to co-exist with individuals who may have different values, family practices, and how those factors could influence our perceptions and attitudes.

The last benchmark, HE.5.P.8.1, is related

to helping students advocate for respectful environments, behaviors, and attitudes. We can never underestimate the magnitude of even

one

kind voice to interfere in a situation where bullying or intolerance is occurring. Additionally, the 5th

grade Gender Roles & Expression lesson is not a part of the required set of lessons to be provided to students. It is a

FLEX

lesson that is included in the event the 5th

grade science teacher has additional instructional time or should

there be a need for this instruction for a

particular reason. Generally speaking, gender

roles refer to the way we are expected to

act, speak, dress, and conduct ourselves based on our assigned gender. This

lesson is not intended to focus gender roles and expression in the LGBTQ lens,

rather to help students understand that people are

individuals with interests that might be different from others.

If

you have additional questions regarding health education, Heather Albritton will be glad to assist you. She can be reached at albrittonA@duvalschools.org.

Kind regards,

Dr. Diana Greene
Superintendent
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Jacksonville, FL 32207
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