



December 5, 2022

Delivered by electronic mail to the recipient list below.

Superintendent Diana Greene, The Honorable Chairman Kelly Coker, Mr. Darryl Willie, Mr. Warren A. Jones, and Mses. April Carney, Cindy Pearson, Charlotte Joyce, and Lori Hershey,

On behalf of the Duval chapter of the organization *Moms for Liberty*, we wish to express our concern regarding the proposed supplemental health curriculum which the Board will be voting on during the Regular Board Meeting on December 6th, 2022.

While we appreciate the district's efforts to replace the controversial materials that were previously used, and agree that the proposed materials are an improvement, we wish to outline below the reasons we urge the Board to vote "No," on approving the proposed materials. We consider this supplemental curriculum to be unnecessary as state standards are already met with existing textbooks, and the middle school proposed materials offer very little new content.

Contradictory statements regarding the need for such supplementary materials

The district has made the following contradictory statements:

- April 12, 2022: The superintendent stated, "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." (*Based on this statement, supplementary health curriculum would not be taught, because it goes beyond state standards.*)
- July 19, 2022 and August 2, 2022 – Director of Health Education stated that the supplementary Health curriculum was an initiative stemming directly from the CDC DASH grant. These materials were selected through partnerships with the CDC, SHAC, and other ancillary partners. The decision to implement supplemental health lessons had nothing to do with the textbook not meeting state standards. The decision to implement supplemental health lessons is the district opting to teach content beyond state standards. In fact, the presentation given to the Board states that the Glencoe TeenHealth standard middle school textbook does meet state standards. See screenshot below.

Curriculum Publishers

Glencoe TEEN HEALTH -Middle School, McGraw Hill

Selected from the state approved textbooks in 2015, *Teen Health* teaches critical health skills that align with the National Health Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.



10

- November 15, 2022 – The district stated, “The textbook does not cover reproductive [health] nor the instruction required for teaching about HIV and STDs.... Either textbook, whether it’s the middle school or the high school textbook, do not cover all of the required standards required by the state of Florida. That is the reason why we had to go for a supplement.” *This statement directly contradicts multiple statements made by the Health Education Director, who has explained to the public and the Board that the supplementary education goes beyond state standards, and is a result of a push from the CDC and the DASH grant funding. Additionally, a review of the middle school textbook reveals that it does cover these topics extensively. See Exhibit A.*
- November 15, 2022 - “The particular lesson [related to gender identity/ideology] is not taught in middle school. It is in the book, but it is not in the curriculum guide.”

Middle School Glencoe TeenHealth Supplement Repeats the TeenHealth Textbook

A careful reading of both the middle school TeenHealth textbook and the TeenHealth Supplement reveals that approximately 95% of all content in the supplement is found in the textbook. In fact, as many as 10 pages are copied verbatim, using the same visual aids and images. Exhibit A details the overlapping content.

The only content included in the supplement that is new to the student (meaning it is not covered well in textbook) includes the following:

- More in-depth information related to contraceptives
- Diversity in Relationships, including one-sided, biased coverage of gender ideology and an “Advocacy Activity”
- Marriage, parenthood, and teen marriage
- Safe Surrender Baby Law
- Pregnancy and Childbirth

NOTE: HIV and STIs are already covered extensively in the standard TeenHealth textbook on the following pages: 32, 234, 238, 306-307, 423-431.

High School Human Kinetics HOPE Supplement

We did not have access to the Human Kinetics HOPE textbook to review and compare its content to the proposed supplement: Reproductive and Sexual Health.

However, we commend the supplement for its balanced approach to covering the topic of abortion. Even if not up-to-date on the issue, this portion of the content abides by a recent version of School Board Policy 4.10 which required that all sides of a controversial topic be presented without bias or prejudice, allowing each student to arrive at his/her own conclusions. We cannot say the same regarding the supplemental content addressing gender ideology and sexual orientation. We urge the Board to require the district to either avoid topics of gender ideology and sexual orientation in reproductive health lessons, or present them in a fair and unbiased manner, devoid of any promotion of advocacy on behalf of the teacher or students.

Given that the School Board recently reiterated their approval of the usage of medically accurate props to be used in class for condom skills lessons, we would like to see the district include an accurate and detailed description of this lesson in the letter sent to parents informing them of their opt-out rights. The proposed supplemental materials for high school do not include a condom lesson. Therefore, if the district intends to teach this, as they and the Board have reiterated, the district must make it clear to parents that this is a part of the supplemental reproductive health lessons, and specify which grades will participate in this lesson, with and without the use of props.

District Developed Curriculum Guides Not Made Available for Review

On November 15, 2022, the district stated that they would provide teachers with a curriculum guide, and that teachers would be instructed not to teach some of the content in the supplementary book related to gender ideology. It was not made clear if the curriculum guides will be for both middle and high school teachers, or only middle school teachers.

Regarding the district-developed curriculum guides:

- The district has not made the curriculum guides available to parents for review. This is critical information parents need in order to make an informed decision regarding the option to opt-out of lessons that may violate their values, beliefs, or conscience. We remind the Board that parents have the fundamental right to direct the moral upbringing, education, and healthcare of their children. This is well-established in the constitution and Supreme Court rulings.
- Moms for Liberty members want to know what assurances they have that all teachers will abide by the district's curriculum guide with fidelity.
- We remind the Board of School Board Policy 6.84 which prohibits staff from having conversations of a sexual nature with any student unless as part of a classroom discussion utilizing an approved curriculum. To most common-sense community members, when a student and/or teacher are given a book approved by the board and purchased by the district, all of the contents found within the book (supplementary or textbook), would be viewed as "curriculum." How will "curriculum" be defined for teachers, as it relates to this policy: contents of material provided or district's curriculum guide? In a recent meeting, the Board was informed that teachers would not be teaching gender ideology based upon a yet-to-be-developed curriculum guide. To many this statement rings hollow and meaningless. By voting to approve this supplementary health curriculum, the Board is providing blanket approval of all content found within all of the supplementary materials, including a one-sided presentation of gender ideology.

Recommendation – Customized Middle School Supplementary Lesson

Since the middle school supplement adds very little new content, the district would be wise not to waste dollars on repetitive material. If wasteful spending were not a good enough reason to vote, “No,” on the rehashed content, we urge you to keep your teaching staff in mind. Why should they be unnecessarily burdened with the annoyance and confusion of determining why they are being asked to teach from new supplemental materials that repeat lessons already taught, and do not offer a significant amount of new information?

A better solution would be for the district to develop one or two truly supplemental health lessons that cover the key content missing from the textbook that is above and beyond state standards and satisfies the needs of the community. A simple lesson plan including in-depth coverage of birth control, marriage, parenthood, Safe Surrender Baby Law, and pregnancy and childbirth. Then, notify parents of precisely what would be covered (including skills-based lessons associated with condom usage, and usage of medically accurate props if applicable). A simplified approach such as this would provide needed clarity to both concerned parents and the teachers being tasked with teaching new material.

Should the district adopt the supplemental materials without modification, we urge you to offer parents the option to opt-in to all, part, or none of the curriculum, and provide them with a meaningful opportunity to review the material before making the decision.

We request that you demonstrate wise financial stewardship and clear leadership by voting, “No,” on the unnecessary proposed supplemental health curriculum.

Respectfully,

Moms for Liberty - Duval County
Momsforlibertyduval@gmail.com

Recipient electronic email address list:

Dr. Diana L. Greene, Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools, Greened@duvalschools.org

Duval County School Board members:

District 1 - The Honorable Dr. Kelly Coker | cokerk@duvalschools.org

District 2 - The Honorable April Carney | carneya1@duvalschools.org

District 3 - The Honorable Cindy Pearson | pearsonc1@duvalschools.org

District 4 - The Honorable Darryl Willie | willied@duvalschools.org

District 5 - The Honorable Warren A. Jones | jonesw2@duvalschools.org

District 6 - The Honorable Charlotte Joyce | joycec@duvalschools.org

District 7 - The Honorable Lori Hershey | hershey1@duvalschools.org



Exhibit A

DCPS Middle School Health Education: Proposed Supplemental Health Curriculum & Textbook Alignment

Supplemental: Glencoe TeenHealth Healthy Relationships + Sexuality	Content Covered in Glencoe TeenHealth Textbook?
P. viii-xxvii – <i>Your Total Health through Choosing Healthcare Services</i>	Covered verbatim. See pages HSH 2 - HSH-21.
Chapter 1: The Teen Years	
Lesson 1 – Changes During the Teen years (p. 4-6) – Relationships, self-image, goals, responsible decisions, values Success skills, refusal skills	Yes, on pages HSH 15-17, and pages 87-88, 230-231 Yes, on pages HSH 14, and pages 29, 36, 35-36
Lesson 2 – Your Changing Body (p. 7) Adolescence changes – physical, mental, emotional, social Image on page 8 – copied verbatim from textbook.	Yes, on pages 228-231 Page 229 has same image.
Lesson 3 – Your Relationships (p. 10 – 19) Relationships: friendships, dating, refusing dates, controlling sexual desires (page 10) Goals Info graphic (page 18) Responsible relationships info graphic (page 19)	Yes, pages 24-38 No, not found in textbook No, not found in textbook
Hands-On Health Activity	No, not found in textbook
Chapter 2: The Reproductive System	
Lesson 1 – The Female Reproductive System (page 22 – 26) Female Reproductive System (p. 22-26)	Yes, pages 236-239, 306-307
Lesson 2 – The Male Reproductive System (p. 27 – 29)	Yes, pages 232-235, 305-306
Hands-On Health Activity: Who's Who? (p. 30)	No, not found in textbook.

Chapter 3: Sexual Feelings + Relationships	
Lesson 1 – Responsible Relationships Sexual feelings, High risk behaviors, consequences of sexual activity (p. 36) Choosing Abstinence (p. 38) Contraceptives (p. 38) Sexual harassment (p. 38) Refusal skills (p. 38)	Yes, p. 32, 34-35 Yes, p. 34-35 Very briefly mentioned on pages 423-425. Supplement covers contraceptives in more detail. Yes, p. 67, 162 Yes, p. 36
Lesson 2 – Diversity in Relationships (p. 41-45) Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Coming Out, Trevor Project Risks of sexual activity Advocacy Activity (Make pamphlet explaining all sexual orientations)	No, not found in textbook Yes, pages 32-33 No, not found in textbook
Lesson 3 – Marriage and Parenthood (p. 46-49) Marriage (p. 48-49) Parenthood Teen marriage (p. 48-49) Teen Parenthood Safe Surrender Baby Law (p. 32)	Very brief mention of marriage on page 245. Very brief mention of parenthood on page 10. No, not found in textbook Yes, page 32 No, not found in textbook
Lesson 4 – Pregnancy and Childbirth (p. 50-51)	No, not in textbook any explanatory, detailed way.
Lesson 5 - STDs and HIV/AIDS (p. 52-57)	Yes, pages 32, 234, 238, 306-307, 423-427, 428-431.
Hands-On Health Activity	No, not found in textbook.