

**Agenda Item VI.K, Board Action on Student Achievement Committee recommendations concerning
Board Policy 103.5, Sexual Health Education**

General Business Meeting

June 16, 2015

The Student Achievement Committee (“Committee”) met on April 7, 2015 and took action on Board Policy 103.5, Sexual Health Education (“Policy 103.5”), recommending that the Board approve the policy as is, attached as **Exhibit A**. Policy 103.5 is designed to replace Board Policy 2110, Abstinence-Based Education attached as **Exhibit B**. A redline showing the differences between Policy 103.5 and Policy 2110 is attached as **Exhibit C**.

On April 21, 2015, Policy 103.5 was placed on the Board’s General Business Meeting agenda for discussion purposes only. The Board received written and oral testimony on Policy 103.5 and discussed the policy.

Exhibit A

2110

POLICY 103.5

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

In order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall provide sexual health education to include age appropriate, medically accurate, health education that: (1) Includes education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency virus; (2) Helps students develop relationships and communication skills to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion and intimidation; (3) Helps students develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and stress management to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships; (4) Encourages student to communicate with their parents, guardians and other trusted adults about sexuality; and (5) Informs students of available community resources. Instruction will emphasize that abstention from sexual intercourse is the surest way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emotional distress.

A student shall be excused from sexual health instruction only upon the prior written request of the student's parent or legal guardian. A student may not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty or other sanction if the student's parent or legal guardian makes such written request.

Approved: 9/95

Exhibit B

2110

**ABSTINENCE-BASED EDUCATION
POLICY**

In order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall instruct students that abstention from sexual intercourse is the surest and most responsible way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emotional distress. The abstinence-based education program shall:

- a. support abstention from sexual intercourse and provide skill development to continue abstention;
- b. help youth who have had sexual intercourse to abstain from further sexual intercourse until an appropriate time; and
- c. provide youth with information on and skill development in the use of protective devices and methods for the purpose of preventing sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

Approved: 9/95

POLICY 103.5

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SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION
POLICY**

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- ~~a. support abstinence from sexual intercourse and provide skill development to continue abstinence;~~
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