

Current Policy

**Title 28
EDUCATION**

Chapter 23. Curriculum and Instruction

Subchapter A. Standards and Curricula

Part CXV. Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators

§2305. Ancillary Areas of Instruction

A. Each LEA may develop a character education philosophy and implementation plan consistent with its locally developed curriculum.

B. A public school may offer instruction in personal financial management based upon the concept of achieving financial literacy through the teaching of personal management skills and the basic principals involved with earning, spending, saving, and investing. Such instruction and subject matter shall be integrated into an existing course of study.

C. A public high school shall offer an elective course in American sign language, provided that at least 15 students in a school request the course and a certified teacher is available.

D. Any public school in Louisiana may offer instruction in sex education, provided such instruction and subject matter is integrated into an existing course of study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education.

1. Such instruction should encourage sexual abstinence outside of marriage, and such instruction shall not include religious beliefs, practices in human sexuality, nor the subjective moral and ethical judgments of the instructor or other persons.

2. No such instruction shall be offered in kindergarten or in grades one through six, except that the Orleans Parish School Board may offer instruction in sex education at the third grade level or higher.

3. When offered, such instruction shall be available also to special education students at age-appropriate levels.

4. Any student may be excused from receiving instruction in sex education at the option and discretion of his or her parent or guardian according to procedures provided by the LEA. Such instruction may be offered at times other than during the regular school day, as determined by the LEA.

5. An LEA that chooses to offer instruction in sex education shall provide the following information to the parents and/or guardians of the students:

- a. a description of the course contents;
- b. a listing of course materials to be used; and
- c. the qualifications of the instructor(s).

E. All books, films, and other materials to be used in instruction in sex education shall be submitted to and approved by the local educational governing authority and by a parental review committee, whose membership shall be determined by such board.

F. Each LEA shall include in the curriculum a program of substance abuse prevention, to include informational, effective, and counseling strategies, and information designed to reduce the likelihood that students shall injure themselves or others through the misuse and abuse of chemical substances.

1. The substance abuse programs and curricula shall also include procedures for identifying students who exhibit signs of misuse or abuse of such substances and procedures for referral for counseling or treatment.

2. Elementary schools shall provide a minimum of 16 contact hours of substance abuse prevention education each school year. Instruction shall be provided within a comprehensive school health program.

3. Secondary schools shall provide a minimum of 8 contact hours of substance abuse prevention education each school year for grades 10-12 and 16 hours for grade 9. Instruction shall be provided within a comprehensive school health program.

4. The substance abuse programs and curricula shall also include procedures for identifying students who exhibit signs of misuse or abuse of such substances and procedures for referral for counseling or treatment.

G. Each school shall hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, September 17, of each year. The purpose of the program is to commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the Constitution Day program shall be held during the preceding or following week.

H. Each LEA shall provide age- and grade-appropriate classroom instruction regarding internet and cell phone safety.

1. The LDE will identify and list appropriate resources on the LDE website.

2. The instruction shall be integrated into an existing course and shall include but not be limited to the following topics:

- a. the safe and responsible use of social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of electronic communication;
- b. risks of transmitting personal information;
- c. recognizing, avoiding, and reporting solicitations by sexual predators;
- d. recognizing and reporting illegal activities and communications;

- e. recognizing and reporting harassment and cyberbullying;
- f. recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive communications; and
- g. copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music, and video.

I. Each LEA shall provide to high school students age and grade appropriate classroom instruction relative to the state's safe haven relinquishments law, *Children's Code*, articles 1149-1160.

J. Each LEA shall provide appropriate instruction on adoption awareness to all high school students in a manner deemed appropriate by the school principal.

K. Each LEA shall provide age- and grade-appropriate classroom instruction to all students relative to child assault awareness and prevention.

1. Such instruction shall be limited to:

- a. education on what constitutes abuse or an assault; and
- b. how students may safely and confidentially report to a school official the circumstances surrounding any such abuse or assaults.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:154, R.S. 17:261 et seq., R.S. 17:280, R.S. 17:281 et seq., R.S.17:404, R.S. 17:405 et seq., 36 USCS §106, R.S. 17:263, and R.S. 17:81.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 31:1288 (June 2005), amended LR 33:2353 (November 2007), LR 39:2214 (August 2013), LR 39:3259 (December 2013), LR 40:2531 (December 2014).