

Maria Montessori Academy
Policy: Sex Education Instruction Policy
Approved: November 13, 2018
Reviewed: September 10, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Sex Education Curriculum taught at Maria Montessori Academy (the "School") is compliant with state law.

Policy

The School will comply with applicable state law regarding the presentation of sex education instruction or instructional programs if the School elects to provide sex education instruction or instructional programs, including maturation education, at the School.

"Sex education instruction or instructional programs" means any course, unit, class, activity or presentation that provides instruction or information to students about: sexual abstinence, human development, including puberty and maturation, human reproductive processes, including conception, fetal development, pregnancy, and birth; reproductive anatomy and physiology; healthy dating practices, marriage and parenthood, in accordance with the success sequence as defined in Utah Code § 53G-10-402; adoption in accordance with Utah Code § 53G-10-404; information about contraceptive methods or devices in accordance with Utah Code § 53G-10-402(2)(b) and (c); chronic, infectious, and acute diseases and conditions of the reproductive system, including sexually transmitted infections and diseases; or refusal skills, as defined in Utah Code § 53G-10-402. While these topics are most likely discussed in courses such as health education, health occupations, human biology, physiology, parenting, adult roles, psychology, sociology, child development, and biology, this policy applies to any course or class in which these topics are the focus of discussion.

The Director shall establish administrative procedures to help the School comply with the requirements related to sex education instruction or instructional programs under Utah law.

Review

Every two years the Board of Directors will (a) review this policy; and (b) review data for the county in which the School is located regarding teen pregnancy, child sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections, and the number of pornography complaints or other instances reported in the School.

Administrative Procedures
Sex Education Instruction Procedures

These administrative procedures are established pursuant to the Sex Education Instruction Policy adopted by the School's Board of Directors.

In accordance with state law, all sex education instruction or instructional programs, which include all maturation education programs, will comply with the requirements of Utah Code § 53G-10-402 through -403 and Utah Admin Code R277-474.

The School's health curriculum will include instruction in the following topics, as required by Utah Code § 53G-10-402(2)(a)(ii):

(a) the success sequence
(b) community and personal health, including personal hygiene and the prevention of communicable disease;
(c) physiology;
(d) human development;
(e) marriage and safe dating practices;
(f) refusal skills;
(g) resilience;
(h) situational awareness;
(i) the harmful effects of pornography;
(j) the consequence of behaviors that pose a risk to individual health or of failure under the success sequence.

The School shall ensure that health curriculum instruction:

(a) stresses the importance of abstinence from all sexual activity before marriage and fidelity after marriage as methods for: maintaining mental, physical, and social health, including reducing stress; eliminating risks associated with sexual activity, including preventing pregnancy and certain communicable diseases; and achieving the success sequence; and
(b) personal skills that encourage abstinence, the return to abstinence, and fidelity.

The Director will establish a curriculum materials review committee composed of parents, school health educators, health professionals, and administrators. The committee will have at least as many parents as school employees. The School's Board of Directors will review and approve the membership of the committee on or before August 1 each year.

The curriculum materials review committee will meet on a regular basis, as determined by the members of the committee, select officers for the committee and designate a

committee chair, and comply with the Open and Public Meetings Act. The committee will review and make recommendations to the School's Board of Directors regarding instructional materials to be used by the School in connection with sex education instruction. Program materials and guest speakers supporting instruction on these topics must also be reviewed and approved by the curriculum materials review committee.

Instructional materials used by the School in connection with sex education instruction must be approved by the School's Board of Directors. These materials will comply with the requirements of applicable law and will be available for parents to review for a reasonable period of time prior to consideration for adoption by the Board of Directors.

The following topics may not be taught in the School:

- The intricacies of sexual stimulation or erotic behavior;
- The advocacy of premarital or extramarital sexual activity;
- The advocacy or encouragement of the use of contraceptive methods or devices (however, instruction that includes information about contraceptive methods or devices, not including abortion or any abortive methods, that stresses effectiveness, failure rates for youth, limitations, risks, and information on state law applicable to minors obtaining contraceptive methods or devices is allowed); or
- Any means or methods that facilitate or encourage the violation of any state or federal criminal law by a minor or an adult, including as a response to a spontaneous question from a student.

The School will comply with the student privacy laws in Utah Code § 53E-9-202 through -203, and obtain parental consent prior to any sex education instruction, including maturation education. At no time will a student be in the classroom during any such sex education instruction unless an approval form signed by the student's parent/guardian is on file. The parental notification form (aka the approval form) will:

a) explain a parent's right to review proposed curriculum materials in a timely manner;

b) request the parent's permission to instruct the parent's student in identified course material related to sex education instruction including;

c) allow the parent to exempt the parent's student from attendance for a class period where identified course material related to sex education instruction is presented and discussed;

d) be specific enough to give parents fair notice of topics to be covered;

e) include a brief explanation of the topics and materials to be presented and provide a time, place and contact person for review of the identified curricular materials;

f) be retained on file with affirmative parental consent for each student prior to the student's participation in discussion of issues protected under Section 53G-10-402; and

g) be maintained at the School for a reasonable period of time.

Instructors may not intentionally elicit comments or questions about matters subject to parental consent requirements. Additionally, instructors' responses to questions spontaneously raised by students must be brief, factual, objective and in harmony with content requirements of this policy and state law. Responses must also be age appropriate and limited in scope to that reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

The School will ensure that all educators with any responsibility for any aspect of sex education instruction will receive appropriate professional development outlining the sex education curriculum and the criteria for sex education instruction. The School will ensure that educators receive this professional development at least once every three years. Additionally, the School will ensure that such educators are familiar with the student privacy requirements of Utah Code § 53E-9-202 through -203.

Any complaint or appeal concerning sex education instruction materials adopted by the School should be addressed in accordance with the School's Parent Grievance Policy or Staff Grievance Policy, as applicable.