







		<p>mandatory step to ensure the overall health of our K-12 students and Texas economy.</p> <p>(2) The current TEKS separates 6<sup>th</sup> Grade TEKS from 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8 Grades that are combined. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grades TEKS address health education in 14 areas of the Student Expectations. Suggestion will be to combine all 3 grade levels as Middle School (6, 7, 8) with same required essential knowledge and skills. According to the Association for Middle Level Education, middle school students in grades 6, 7 &amp; 8 are facing basically the same developmental phase in terms of the impact of puberty on their social, emotional and intellectual lives. Combining all 3 grade levels helps to streamline repetition and conveys the understanding of their social, emotional, metacognitive and neurological growth.</p>
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**Reference**

Vaillancourt, T., Faris, R., & Mishna, F. (2017). Cyberbullying in Children and Youth: Implications for Health and Clinical Practice. *Canadian journal of psychiatry. Revue canadienne de psychiatrie*, 62(6), 368–373. doi:10.1177/0706743716684791