

Dr. Kanaan review of WG Strands 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6

Guidelines for Content Advisor Feedback on the Health Education Draft Recommendations

First I would like to thank all the members of the WG for working very hard on completing this part of this immense project and especially during those difficult times with Corona-Virus problems and limitations.

1. Does grade level or course follow a complete and logical development of health education concepts? If not, what suggestions do you have for improvement.

yes

2. Have the correct vocabulary and terminology been used throughout the TEKS?

yes

3. Is the level of rigor appropriate for each grade level?

yes

4. Are concepts introduced at the appropriate grade level?

yes

5. Are the student expectations (SEs) clear and specific?

yes

6. Are the TEKS aligned horizontally and vertically? If not, what gaps should be addressed?

yes

7. Can all student expectations reasonably be taught within the amount of time typically allotted for the grade level or high school course prior to the end of the school year?

yes

8. Is there any unnecessary duplication of standards or concepts? Are there student expectations that can be eliminated in order to streamline the standards?

No, the WG made significant and necessary cuts to duplicated concepts.

9. Are there any gaps or concepts missing that should be addressed? Are there specific areas that need to be updated to reflect current research?

May 4th, 2020

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- Strand 6 on top of each page was listed in Green color the following:

The student understands that there are risks associated with sexual activity and that abstinence is the only 100%-effective method to avoid risks.

We know from data collected and presented in the Advisors meeting that in the state of Texas abstinence has not been a very dependable and effective method to prohibit teen from practicing/experimenting with sexual activity. The above statement continue along the line of providing higher platform for a steeper disappointment and failure in the future for the students in the state of Texas. We, the advisors, spent a lot of time discussing this matter and concluded that we recommend following the law as listed word for word in TEC28.004/e/1,2,3,4,5. Avoiding bias and secondary intentions that would dilute the message to the WG, we firmly agreed to use the same words in TEC28.004/e/1,2,3,4,5. Having WG list the “abstinence is the only 100%-effective method to avoid risk” is an incomplete and short deliverance of the message we all are trying to bring to SBOE and bring updated information valid in the 21st century to schools in state of Texas. I strongly recommend for the WG to either balance the sentence above with completing it with alternative method or removing it completely from the Title of the strand.

-The WG on Strand 6 (Repro and Sexual Health) have made a comment on Page 13 in section F stated: *identify why discuss-abstinence from sexual activity is as the only method that is 100% effective in preventing pregnancy, STDs, and the sexual transmission of HIV or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity.*

The statement above is at disagreement to what the TEKS Advisors have made their recommendation to become more inclusive with vocabulary and teaching at schools in the state of Texas. Abstinence only has not worked as hoped in the past and Teen pregnancy continue to rise in the state of Texas. As we, TEKS advisors, extensively discussed and came to an agreement that we need to follow the statute.

As listed in Human Sexuality Instruction (TEC28.004/e/1,2,3,4,5) it is important to list abstinence as Preferred choice/behavior but alternative educational/informative list of methods are listed such as Condoms, contraception. The WG need to adhere with the recommendations given by the Advisors and list abstinence and alternatives whenever they are discussing sexuality, teen pregnancy, STDs.

It is time to follow the statute to the word listed in TEC28.004/e/1,2,3,4,5 and avoid personal bias that could cause more harm and recurrent failures in student education in the state of Texas.

My recommendation for the WG to remove their above statement and write a more inclusive statement that would list alternative methods of contraception with each time abstinence is listed/taught.

10. Do you have any other suggestions for ways in which the health education TEKS can be improved?

Follow the recommendations made by the advisors listed in our summary. Follow the law as written in TEC28.004/e/1,2,3,4,5 without personal bias and secondary intentions.

May 4th, 2020