



Northville Public Schools Reproductive Health Report

June, 2010

Background Information

According to Michigan law (MCL #380.1507), school districts are required to evaluate, measure and report to the parents of this district the attainment of program goals and objectives as they relate to reproductive health instruction, every two years. The following is the evaluation report for 2008-2010 for instruction at the high school. Subsequent reports will include elementary (2010-2012) and middle school (2012-2014) evaluation reports.

Michigan Public Acts 165 and 166 outline the planning, training, and implementation mandates for HIV/AIDS and sex education (PA 165 of 2004) and a parent complaint process (PA 166 of 2004). These acts stipulate the make-up of each district's Sex Education Advisory Board, as well as their roles and responsibilities. Northville Public Schools has named this board the "**Health Advisory Board.**"

Public Acts 165 and 166 also stipulate that school districts are required to teach about dangerous communicable diseases, including but not limited to, HIV/AIDS. §380.1169 HIV/AIDS must be offered at least once a year at every building level (elementary, middle/junior, senior high) and each person who teaches K-12 pupils about HIV/AIDS shall have training in HIV and AIDS education for young people. §380.1169

Health Advisory Board Composition

Every district that chooses to implement sex education must have a sex education advisory board to periodically review materials and methods, and make recommendations to the district regarding changes. The advisory board is established by the school district and includes parents, student(s), educators, local clergy, and community health professionals.

The 2009-10 Northville Public Schools (NPS) Health Advisory Board has 18 voting members, 9 of whom are parents, including: Two co-chairpersons: Parent, and Asst. Supt. for Instruction; Curriculum Coordinator (ad hoc/non-voting); Elementary teacher and principal; Middle School Principal; High School assistant principal; Community Health Professionals (2), including School Nurse Consultant/parent; Northville Youth Assistance Director; Clergy; Northville High School Student; and Parents (9 total)

Notification of Parents and Parent Involvement

Parents receive written notification in advance of lessons taught in reproductive health and/or HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), along with notification of the opportunity to review the materials used prior to the lesson. Participation in the human sexuality/reproductive health lessons is by written parent permission.

At each level, parents are encouraged to preview the approved curriculum and materials, in order to make an informed decision about each student's participation in reproductive health lessons. Being aware of the curriculum and materials presented at school can also help to facilitate the critical conversations parents have with their students in the home environment. During the lessons, students are encouraged to talk to their parents about relationships and to ask questions, and there are structured assignments that help facilitate talking with parents. By working together, schools and families can more effectively equip students to develop healthy habits and avoid health risks.

A May, 2006 EPIC-MRA survey of Northville parents suggests that approximately 76% of Northville parents prefer an *abstinence-based* approach to health education; about 12% of Northville parents prefer an *abstinence-only* approach; and about 8% of Northville parents prefer that sexuality education not be taught in school at all.

In recognition of the different perspectives that families may have regarding this component of the curriculum, Northville Public Schools (NPS) has provided a number of options, in addition to a choice between an *abstinence-based* or *abstinence-only* course at the high school level.

In either health course option at the high school level, parents may choose to have their students participate in all, a portion of, or none of the lessons involving human sexuality. Those who choose not to have their student participate in one or more class periods will have choices available for replacement assignments/experiences (i.e. choice of health topics for deeper study, submission of an alternate topic/experience for approval, materials to review at home.)

Participation Rates

During '08-09, the percentage of parents choosing to have their student participate in all of lessons in the Health-Abstinence Based class was 96.7%, with 2.8% of parents opting to have students participate in most of the lessons, and less than 1% choosing not to have their student participate in any of the 8 lessons.

During the '09-10 school year, 87% of students taking Health enrolled in the Health Abstinence-Based (AB) Class and 13% enrolled in the Abstinence-Only (AO) class. Of the students enrolled in the Health-AB classes, the percentage of parents choosing to have their student participate in all of lessons was 98.7%, with 1% of parents opting to have students participate in some/most of the lessons, and less than 1% choosing not to have their student participate in any of the 8 lessons. Of the students enrolled in the Health-AO class, percentage of parents choosing to have their student participate in all of lessons was 88.3%, with 3.4% of parents opting to have students participate in some/most of the lessons, and 8.3% choosing not to have their student participate in any of the 8 lessons.

Goals, Objectives, and Curricula

The following goals and objectives for the K-12 program of instruction in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and sex education are aligned with state laws, the State Board of Education *Policy to Promote Health and Prevent Disease and Pregnancy* (2003), and the *Grade Level Content Expectations* as well as the *Michigan Merit Curriculum Credit Guidelines for Health Education*, adopted by the Michigan Board of Education (2007).

UUUUGoal:

To equip students with the knowledge and skills to develop healthy relationships and to avoid sexual behaviors that put them at risk for HIV, STDs, and unintended pregnancy.

Objectives:

At the end of the K-12 HIV/STI and reproductive health program of instruction, students will be able to:

- Analyze characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Evaluate positive and negative influences on sexual decisions.
- Understand that abstinence is the only 100% effective, emotionally and physically safe method for teens.
- Understand that engaging in sexual activity as a teen is detrimental – emotionally, physically and economically.
- Evaluate the possible emotional, physical, and legal consequences of teen pregnancy, teen parenting, HIV or other sexually transmitted infection on personal lifestyle, goal achievement, friends and family members.
- Apply strategies, including refusal and assertiveness skills to avoid, manage and escape situations that are high risk for pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections.
- Communicate with parents and other trusted adults regarding relationships, reproductive health, and sexual decisions.

High School Curricula:

The Northville Public Schools human sexuality education and HIV/STI prevention components of the two high school health courses comprise eight (87 minute) class periods. The content is based on selected lessons from the program, *Healthy and Responsible Relationships: HIV, Other STIs, and Pregnancy Prevention, A Module for Grades 9-12* which was developed by the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Community Health with modifications/additions and notations made through the Health Advisory Board process.

In the *abstinence-based* health course, the curriculum focuses on abstinence as the only 100% physically, emotionally, and economically safe and healthy choice for teens, and teaches about risk reduction strategies for when individuals become sexually active later in life. In the *abstinence-only* course, the curriculum focuses on abstinence as the only 100% physically, emotionally, and economically safe and healthy choice for teens, without teaching risk reduction strategies.

The curriculum and materials selected for the Sexuality Education and HIV/STI prevention lessons were approved by the district's Health Advisory Board, District Curriculum Council, and subsequently approved by the NPS Board of Education.

Assessment of Student Progress

The pre- and post- assessment was developed using items aligned with the Michigan Merit Curriculum content standards for health, and primarily drawn from the Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO) sponsored State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) searchable database called HEAP (Health Education Assessment Program). This searchable database allows the selection of individual items based on the content area (based on health education content areas), skill (based on National Health Education Standards), and grade level (elementary, middle, and high school). The database contains over 1500 test items that were piloted using a national sample.

Items selected from the database were based on correlation to concepts and skills taught in the district approved curricula. The assessment includes 70 test items which are used for both the pre- and post-test, and was administered in all Health classes offered second semester in 2008-09 (7 classes of Health–Abstinence Based) and in all Health classes offered during the first semester of 2009-10 (6 classes of Health–Abstinence Based)¹.

¹ Note: The Health-Abstinence Only course (2 sections) was taught for the first time during second semester of the 2009-10 school year, and therefore, pre and post assessment results from Health - Abstinence-Only courses will be included in a subsequent report.

Students took the pre-test in their classroom prior to the beginning of instruction. The post-test was administered after the conclusion of instruction. The district results of the pre- and post-tests are as follows:

	# Classes	# Students	Pre-Test	Post Test	Change
2009-10 - 1st Semester	6	179	65.1%	79.5%	+14.4%
2008-09 - 2nd Semester	7	215	66.1%	81.6%	+15.5%

Overall, the pre- and post-tests indicate that students made significant progress in demonstrating proficiency in the health content standards. As with all test data, teachers will analyze the results, together with student feedback, to adjust lessons and improve instructional delivery.

In addition to the pre- and post-assessment, students reflect on their learning throughout the unit of study. Students report in their writing that the conversations they have with their parents or trusted adults are meaningful to them when it comes to making better decisions about sexual health. Likewise, student reflections suggest that their guided classroom discussions and activities also yield powerful results about positive sexual decision making.

Conclusion

This summary report from 2008-2010 evaluates, measures and documents the goals and objectives related to reproductive health instruction in accordance with Michigan law (MCL #380.1507). Northville Public Schools, (NPS) has established a Health Advisory Board comprised of parents, student(s), educators, local clergy and community health professionals. This board continues to review materials and methods and make recommendations that go to the Board of Education for final consideration.

The HIV/AIDS reproductive health and sex education instruction aligns to state laws and stays focused on the objectives as outlined in this report. The high school Health curricula allow students and parents to have choices. They may select either the abstinence-based or abstinence-only approach. Further, they may choose to participate in all, a portion of, or none of the lessons involving human sexuality. Alternative assignments are available for those students who do not participate in a lesson.

Assessment results, including student reflections, suggest that the instructional program significantly increased students' knowledge and skills related to HIV/STI prevention and sexuality education.

The thoughtful work of the entire Health Advisory Board, with meaningful opportunities for community input and the involvement of teachers in the curriculum development, alignment, assessment, and review process is greatly appreciated. As a result of this work, students have the opportunity to participate in the health education opportunities that address individual needs and parent perspectives.

Copies of this report are available at the Office of Instruction, 501 West Main Street, Northville, MI or on the Northville Public Schools website, www.northville.k12.mi.us.