HEALTH EDUCATION

The School Committee believes that the greatest opportunity for effective health education lies within the public schools because of their potential to reach children at the age when positive, lifelong health habits are best engendered and because the schools are equipped to provide qualified personnel to conduct health education programs.

The School Committee is committed to a sound, comprehensive research-based health education program as an integral part of each student's general education. **Health education will be taught as a separate academic discipline in grades K through 6 and as a separate class in other grades.**

The health education program will emphasize a contemporary approach to the presentation of health information, skills, and the knowledge necessary for students to understand and appreciate the functioning and proper care of the human body. Students also will be presented with developmentally appropriate information regarding complex social, physical, and mental health problems which they might encounter in society. In an effort to help students make intelligent choices on alternative behavior of serious personal consequence, health education will examine the potential health hazards of social, physical and mental problems existing in the larger school-community environment. Health Educators will work to understand the school community's risk and protective factors relating to good health and life choices and will base their curriculum on this data.

In order to promote a developmentally relevant, dynamic approach to the instruction of health education, the School Committee will continue to stress the need for curricular, personnel, and financial commitments that are necessary to assure the high quality of the system's health education program.

LEGAL REF.:   M.G.L. 71:1

Adopted By The
Hadley School Committee: September 22, 2014

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