

Human Growth and Development Instruction

2018-19 | Grades 7-8

The following human growth and development topics are covered in grades 7-8. Families may review the materials used in human growth and development instruction by contacting the principal of the school a student attends. Additionally, families may have their children removed from instruction in human growth and development by providing a written request to the school principal.

Grades 7-8

- **Counseling**

Counselors work with students individually and in small groups to assist them in accepting responsibility for choosing wisely from the alternatives presented to them in society. The counseling program is designed to assist students in identifying their problems, securing the information essential to deal with their problems, and considering and solving their problems using empathy.

- **Social Studies**

Discouragement of sex/gender stereotyping

Seventh Grade

- **Family Environment**

Effective communication, family conflicts, aging, stress management as it relates to nutrition, and interpersonal relationships

- **Science**

Self-esteem and decision-making as it relates to the use and abuse of substances, Talking With Your Students About Alcohol (TWYSAA)

Eighth Grade

- **Family Environment**

Interpersonal relations as they relate to sharing living space, family life, stress management as it relates to nutrition and exercise, decision-making as it relates to diet

- **Science**

Decision-making, adolescent changes, personal responsibility for health and quality of life, human reproduction, responsible parenthood, methods of contraception, fetal development, childbirth, current reproductive health issues, sexually transmitted infections, sexual abstinence, sexual abuse and harassment



In 1988, the Iowa Legislature enacted legislation mandating instruction in the area of human growth and development for grades K-12. The legislation states:

“Each school board shall provide instruction in human growth and development including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relations, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome in grades one through twelve.”

Section 279.50
1989 Code of Iowa

Additional copies of this flyer are available from each school building’s principal and from:

Curriculum Director Shane Scott
Teaching & Learning Service Department
West Des Moines Community Schools
Learning Resource Center
3550 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

Specific questions concerning the curriculum may be addressed to Shane Scott at 515-633-5056.

In November 1988, the West Des Moines Community Schools Board of Education appointed a human growth and development resource committee in accordance with state law. The committee is comprised of parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, clergy, business persons, and members of the community. The committee reviewed the human growth and development curriculum in grades K-12 and made recommendations to the Board regarding the curriculum and materials in the fall of 1989. The district is implementing those recommendations.



3550 Mills Civic Parkway | West Des Moines, IA 50265

515-633-5000 | www.wdmcs.org

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