

# Mansfield Independent School District

## HB1525 Notice Regarding Human Sexuality Instruction

*2022-2023 School Year*

The Texas Education Code and HB1525 require Mansfield ISD to notify parents/guardians of children enrolled in prekindergarten through twelfth grade about the district's human sexuality and abstinence education. This portion of the Health curriculum is fully optional. MISD students will be provided with growth and development lessons focused on the Health TEKS beginning in fourth grade in partnership with our Health Services Department. The approved curriculum was recommended by the district's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and approved by the Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees. The SHACs recommendations pertaining to appropriate grade levels and methods of instruction for the district's human-sexuality instruction are based on the state-required health TEKS and meet the requirements of §28.004(e). The human reproduction and human sexuality education lessons offered in grades 4–12 shall be based upon the state's abstinence focused TEKS.

The Texas Education code requires that any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome must reflect the following:

- (1) present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- (2) devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- (3) emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, infection with human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- (4) direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and infection with human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome; and
- (5) teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates, if instruction on contraception and condoms is included in curriculum content.

A description of which of these topics are presented to which grade level is presented [here](#). Parents of students in the grade levels where the optional curriculum is offered will receive permission slips electronically no later than 2 weeks prior to the time during the regular school year when the curriculum is provided. Written permission from a parent/guardian is required for a student to receive the curriculum. Students may participate in all, none, or part of the curriculum. There is no penalty or consequence for declining the curriculum, and alternative assignments will be provided for those students during the time the curriculum is taught. The District will provide opportunities for parents to obtain an overview of the curriculum so they can make an informed decision. Parents may view curriculum and materials:

Online - Non copyrighted materials through your students CANVAS course.

In-person - Schedule an appointment with your campus anytime during regular business hours to review the entire curriculum for the applicable grade level.

Email or mail - Request a copy of non-copyrighted materials to be sent by email or regular mail. Books may be purchased [online](#) through the publisher. Please contact your campus administrator to set up a time for preview.

The School Health Advisory Council is responsible for reviewing and advising the school board on any human sexuality content. If you would like to participate in this committee in the future or learn more please refer to our [SHAC website](#). MISD encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns. Concerns should be expressed as soon as possible to allow early resolution at the lowest possible administrative level. More information on the grievance process can be found [here](#).

In addition, anytime the Board of Trustees may be considering adoption of or changes to any human sexuality instruction curriculum, parents may attend the meeting and sign up to speak to the Board on the issue and may also write to the Board at any time by email. Agendas for Board meetings are posted on the District's website at <https://www.mansfieldisd.org/about-misd/school-board>

# Mansfield Independent School District

## Notice Regarding Instruction on the Prevention of

### Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking

*2022-2023 School Year*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In accordance with Senate Bill 9 and the Texas Education Code, the Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees has determined that MISD will provide instruction to district students relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. This notification describes the content and curriculum materials for this instruction adopted by the Board.

The curriculum was recommended by MISD's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and adopted by the Board of Trustees, both of which ensured the curriculum materials are suitable for the intended subject and grade level and reviewed by academic experts in the intended subject and grade level. The curriculum is optional; it is **only offered to students in grades 8-12** whose parents choose to have their children receive it by providing written permission.

A description of the content and curriculum is provided below. In accordance with the Texas Education Code, parents of students in the grade levels where the curriculum is offered will receive requests for written consent not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> day before instruction is scheduled to begin. The District must receive written permission from a parent/guardian before a student may receive instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. Students may participate in all, none, or part of the curriculum. There is no penalty or consequence for declining the instruction, and alternative assignments will be provided for those students during the time the curriculum is taught.

Parents may use the grievance procedure set forth in Board Policy FNG(LOCAL) if they believe the District has not complied with the information outlined in this notification. This policy is available on the District's website.

***What is the Content of MISD's Instruction Relating to the Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking?***

- Violence Prevention and Response
  - Bullying and Cyberbullying
  - Sexual Harassment and Assault
  - Abuse and Neglect
  - Violence in the Community
- Maintaining Healthy Relationships
  - Qualities of a Healthy Relationship
  - Supporting Family and Community Relationships
  - Developing Peer Relationships
  - Understanding Romantic Relationships
  - Practicing Sexual Abstinence

***What Are My Rights As a Parent/Guardian?***

Parents have the following rights with respect to instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking:

1. Parents have the right to, at the parent's discretion, review or purchase a copy of curriculum materials as provided by Texas Education Code § 28.004(j);
2. Parents have the right to remove their student from any part of the district's instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking without subjecting the student to any disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction imposed by the district or the student's school; and
3. Parents have the right to use the District's grievance procedure adopted under Texas Education Code § 26.011 [FNG(LOCAL)] or the appeals process under Education Code § 7.057 concerning a complaint of a violation of Texas Education Code § 28.004.

***How Do I Obtain a Copy of MISD's Instruction Relating to the Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking?***

Parents/guardians may request a copy of such curriculum materials by mail or e-mail by submitting the request to Dr. Michelle Hurst @ [michellehurst@misdmail.org](mailto:michellehurst@misdmail.org) .

For copyrighted curriculum materials, parents/guardians may review the curriculum materials at the student's campus at any time during regular business hours.

***What is the Local School Health Advisory Council (the SHAC)?***

SHACs are established by the board of trustees of each school district to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction. A majority of the members appointed to the SHAC by the board of trustees of a district must be parents of students enrolled in the district and not employed by the district. The SHAC in MISD holds public meetings at least four times each year, at which it carries out its numerous duties under Texas law. One of the SHAC's duties is to make recommendations to the MISD Board of Trustees concerning appropriate grade levels and curriculum for instruction regarding child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking, including likely warning signs that a child may be at risk for sex trafficking.

The School Health Advisory Council is responsible for reviewing and advising the school board on any human sexuality content. If you would like to participate in this committee in the future or learn more please refer to our [SHAC website](#). MISD encourages students and parents to discuss their concerns with the appropriate teacher, principal, or other campus administrator who has the authority to address the concerns.

***What Does State Law Require for Instruction Relating to the Prevention of Child Abuse, Family Violence, Dating Violence, and Sex Trafficking?***

Under the Texas Education Code, with the advice and recommendations of MISD's local SHAC, the MISD Board of Trustees is required to (1) determine the specific content of the district's instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking and (2) select any course materials relating to such instruction. Texas law requires the district to follow a specific process for the adoption of curriculum materials for such instruction. Under this process, the Board first adopts a resolution convening the local SHAC for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the curriculum materials. Next, the SHAC must hold at least two public meetings on the curriculum materials before adopting recommendations. The SHAC then must make its recommendations to the Board at a public meeting of the Board. After receiving the SHAC's recommendations, the Board is required to take action on the adoption of the recommendations by a record vote at a public meeting.

The curriculum materials must be made available to parents/guardians in the manner specified in Texas Education Code § 28.004(j). Curriculum materials in the public domain that are used

for the District's instruction regarding the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking must be posted on the District's website.

Districts are required to send parents/guardians a notification before each school year regarding the Board's decision to provide instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking and a description of the content of the instruction. (This notification is sent pursuant to that requirement.) The District must also obtain written consent from a student's parent/guardian before a student may receive instruction relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, dating violence, and sex trafficking. The District is required to send the consent form at least 14 days before such instruction is scheduled to begin. Students may not be penalized if their parent/guardian does not consent to such instruction.