

ALMA D'ARTE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT INSTRUCTION POLICY

Policy No. SI0001
Adopted: 09/13/10
Amended:

SUBJECT: HEALTH EDUCATION

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to set forth procedures for the implementation of a comprehensive health education program as an integral part of each student's general education.

BACKGROUND: Health education builds students' knowledge, skills and positive attitudes about health. Health education teaches about physical, mental, emotional and social health. It motivates students to improve and maintain their health, prevent disease and reduce risky behaviors. In general, healthy students learn better. Numerous studies have shown that healthier students tend to do better in school. They have higher attendance, have better grades and perform better on tests.

REQUIREMENTS:

- (A) Health education shall include a planned, health education curriculum that is age-appropriate and addresses the physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of health. A comprehensive sexual health approach shall be taught in grades 9-12 (NMAC 6.29.6).
- (B) High school students must earn a half credit of health education to fulfill graduation requirements.
- (C) Parents/guardians may request that their child be exempt without penalty from a specific portion of the comprehensive health education program on the grounds that it is contrary to their religious beliefs. If the request for the exemption is from a specific portion of the health education curriculum that concerns human sexuality, no reason must be given by the parent/guardian when requesting the exemption. A request for exemption should be made in writing prior to the first day of classes for the semester.
- (D) Students exempt from any portion of the health curriculum shall be provided alternative assignments without penalty.
- (E) Health curriculum shall be aligned to the Health Educational Content Standards (6.29.6.1 NMAC).
- (F) Alma d'arte shall provide instruction about HIV and related issues (6.12.2.10 NMAC).
- (G) Health education courses may be taught in a traditional classroom setting, fully online, or utilizing a blended face-to-face and online delivery.
- (H) Instructional materials used in comprehensive health education courses shall be available for inspection by parents during school hours and posted on the school's web site.

*Legal Reference: 6.29.6.1 NMAC Health Education; 6.12.2.10 NMAC Health Service
History: New Regulation 06.03.14*

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