

HEALTH PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS

Background

The district recognizes schools play a role, as part of a larger community, to promote health and educate our students in health related issues. The district recognizes an important connection between health and the many benefits to students, including the student's ability to learn, grow, and maintain good health. School District 72 schools promote health by striving to provide:

- Healthy physical and social environments.
- Effective teaching and learning to achieve the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be healthy.
- Strong partnerships with the health sector and other community services contributing to wellness.

Through attention to each of these areas, the district acknowledges the unique position schools play in being able to positively influence students' health. The district also believes that promoting students' health is a responsibility shared with parents, the health sector and the community. Related areas may include, for example: drugs, alcohol and tobacco use; diet and exercise choices; and sexual health education.

Procedure

1. Schools will work to ensure health curricular areas, as prescribed through the Ministry of Education learning outcomes, are being followed and, where possible, partnerships that inform and enhance instruction in health curricular areas are developed and maintained.
2. Education programs will be integrated, whenever possible, with established guidelines and materials issued by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and local health authority.
3. Sexual and reproductive health are covered under the Physical and Health Education curriculum. The provincial government has allowed for some flexibility in the delivery of these topics, only in relation to reproduction and sexuality not sexual orientation and gender identity, and parents can elect an alternative delivery of these prescribed learning standards. Schools are to provide advance notice through a letter home to parents prior to the delivery of reproductive or sexuality lessons. This does not apply to the use of SOGI 123 resources in relation to other curricular areas.
4. The Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools will be followed and promoted. These guidelines apply to food and beverages sold to students in all school locations, including vending machines, school stores and cafeterias, school fundraisers, special occasions, and events sponsored by the Parent Advisory Council.
5. The district and individual schools will seek to ensure supports and services are in place to help students be physically and emotionally healthy. Further partnerships beyond the school community that contribute to health promotion in the school setting will continue to be developed and maintained.

Reference: Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools (2013 edition)
BC Ministry of Education Physical and Health Education Curriculum Alternative Delivery Policy