

OPTIONAL NATURE:

- The framework is aligned to California's 2008 health standards and includes additional guidance on teaching the content mandated in the 2016 California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA).
- The framework is not mandatory.
- The standards are optional as well.
- The framework is not a curriculum – it is guidance for districts and teachers as they as they develop a health education curriculum that suits their local community.
- In the State Board's directions concerning development of the framework, members requested that it include resources districts and teachers can use in partnering with their school community.
- The state is not mandating the use of any of books or any materials.
- Example lessons are suggestions, not mandates.
- Local districts have complete discretion when it comes to curricular materials.
- In terms of sexual health education, the framework provides guidance to help districts and teachers follow the law – the California Healthy Youth Act is the law.
- It requires students to receive *medically accurate and unbiased* comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention information once in middle school and once in high school.

- CHYA's required topics include the safety and effectiveness of contraceptive methods, sexually transmitted diseases, gender identity, sexual orientation and healthy relationships.
- Under CHYA, instruction and materials on sexual health must affirmatively recognize diverse sexual orientations and include gender, gender expression and general identity.
- **Parents may opt out of CHYA completely – schools must inform parents first so they have the option.**
- The 2008 health standards introduce sexual health concepts -- mostly STD and HIV prevention – in fifth grade.
- In alignment with the standards, the framework encourages schools to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate sex health instruction before grade 7.
- **The decision to provide instruction before grade 7 is made at the local level.**

BOOKS REMOVED:

- At the May 8 meeting, the State Board directed that six controversial books be removed from the framework. Those books are:
- Those books are: My Princess Boy
 - Who Are You? The Kids Guide to Gender Identity
 - Changing You! A Guide to Body Changes and Sexuality
 - What's Happening to My Body? (both boys and girls editions)
 - S.E.X The All You Need to Know Progressive Sexuality Guide to Get You Through Your Teens and Twenties.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:

- The Health Curriculum Framework is designed to help students access the knowledge and skills they need to grow into healthy, happy adults.

- The focus is on guiding districts and teachers as they develop curriculum and instruction that enables students to make healthy choices and avoid high-risk behaviors.
- The framework covers the six content areas of physical and mental wellness established by California's 2008 health education content standards, including nutrition, injury prevention, drug abuse prevention and emotional health.
- Most of the framework's 600 pages are dedicated to topics other than sexual health.
- Obesity, violence, drug abuse, trauma and disease are real threats that confront today's youth and put their success in school and life at risk.
- Giving students the tools they need to protect themselves from these challenges requires, honesty, accuracy and thoroughness.
- Ensuring the age-appropriateness of the information and instruction is key.
- The framework also provides guidance on the use of gender-neutral and LGBTQ-inclusive language to make classrooms safe and healthy learning environments free from bullying and harassment.
- According to the results from the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, students who identified as LGBTQ report that they are more likely to be bullied and more likely to consider suicide than their peers.
- Dispelling myths, breaking down stereotypes and linking students to resources can help prevent bullying.

- The opt-out provision for CHYA does not apply to instruction or materials outside the context of sex education, including those that may reference gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.
- For example, the opt-out rule associated with sex education would not apply to a social studies lesson on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in favor of same-sex marriage.