

# *School District of West Salem*

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## **Human Growth and Development Instruction**

The Board believes that health education, consistent with state law, should include, but not necessarily be limited to instruction about controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, mental health, sexually transmitted diseases, human growth and development and related health and safety topics. The Board believes that health education increases student knowledge, improves judgments, develops constructive attitudes, and increases the capacity to make wise decisions.

The health education program shall begin during the elementary grades and continue with a planned sequence of instruction throughout the school experience of the student. The program shall be focused on findings of medical and psychiatric research and clinical experiences as well as legal implications. Without basic facts from these professions, no health education program can be effective.

Consistent with state law, health information concerning drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases shall be a required part of the total health program. These areas of concern shall not represent the total program nor detract from it, but shall be recognized in the broader context of health education.

The health education program shall give particular emphasis to any health problem that is prevalent in the state, community or in a particular school.

The Board shall provide up-to-date materials and resources for effective instructional programming in this important area.

No student may be required to take instruction in these subjects if his/her parent/guardian files a written objection.