



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

August 20, 2018

Dear County of Santa Clara School Administrators, Teachers, and Personnel:

As we begin this new school year, we want all administrators, teachers and school personnel to know they are supported in their planning and implementation of the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA), including in the event of any concern or negative response from parents or the larger community.

CHYA is California's comprehensive sexual health education law, which mandates public schools provide students with medically accurate, age-appropriate, LGBTQ-inclusive comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education at least once in middle school and once in high school. CHYA not only provides well-rounded sexual health information pertinent to our students, but it also complements many of the policies, initiatives, and professional development opportunities we have in place to support positive school climate and student health and wellness efforts:

- Elements of CHYA instruction align with key behavioral and social-emotional learning initiatives by teaching respect and addressing the needs of students of all genders and sexual orientations.
- CHYA instruction aligns with violence prevention workshops by covering topics of sexual harassment, sexual assault, healthy relationships, and sex trafficking, as well as local resources for accessing care and students' right to access care.
- CHYA also reinforces Title IX mandates, which require schools to respond appropriately to reports of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence against students and to respect all students' gender identity in order to protect them from sex-based discrimination.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) supports CHYA implementation and wants to support administrators and teachers in carrying it out in the following ways:

- Sexual Health Education Custom Training for Teachers, School Nurses, & Counselors
 - Dates: September 6, 2018
Time: 8:30am - 4:30 pm
Registration Link:
http://registration.californiaptc.com/presentation_description.html?id=223

- Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Network Meetings:
 - Dates: September 26, 2018 | February 27, 2019 | April 17, 2019
 - Time: 9:30am - 12:00 pm
 - Registration Link: <http://santaclara.k12oms.org/1549-153470>

SCCOE is committed to providing teachers training in the most recent, medically accurate research on the topic. By partnering with the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department, SCCOE can provide free curricular and technical resources from Health Connected, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and Cardea. SCCOE also recognizes the importance of clear communication with parents about CHYA and supports districts by providing parent info nights and school board education. SCCOE can assist in parental notification that their student will receive sexual health education, advising them of the option to remove their student from the instruction by submitting a request in writing and that curricular materials will be made available for parents to view prior to instruction upon request.

CHYA implementation will help provide the necessary health education and skill building to protect our students now and in the future. More information is available through the Comprehensive Sexual Education Network meetings, which meet quarterly to provide districts with guidance and support for CHYA implementation. If you have any questions, please contact Sonia Gutierrez, Health & Wellness Supervisor by phone at (408) 453-6762 or by e-mail at Sonia.Gutierrez@sccoe.org, or visit the California Department of Education Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Instruction webpage at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/se/>.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
County Superintendent of Schools



Sarah C. Lewis, MD MPH
STD/HIV Controller
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