

Haverhill School Committee
Policy IHAF

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Haverhill School Committee is committed to providing a sound, comprehensive health education program as a part of each student's general education. Health education will be offered as a separate discipline to students enrolled in the middle and high schools.

The health education program will emphasize an up-to-date approach to the presentation of health information, skills, and the knowledge necessary for students to understand and appreciate the healthy functioning and proper care of the human body. Students will be presented with information regarding the complex social, physical, and mental health problems common to the human condition. Instruction will be pointed to helping students make intelligent choice on behaviors in matters affective their physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Among other things, health education will address directly issue pertaining to alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. In doing so, it shall include instruction as to the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on the human body, as well as the emotional, psychological and social dangers of the use of such substances. The program shall offer information on effective techniques for resisting peer pressure designed to induce students to use illicit drugs or alcohol.

In the event that specific subjects in the health education program, primarily involving issues surrounding human sexuality, are objectionable to a student, or a student's parent/guardian on religious or other grounds, arrangements may be made to exempt the student from the specific program elements which are held to be objectionable. A request for exemption must be submitted in writing by the parent/guardian to the principal in advance of instruction in that part of the health curriculum to which objection is made. The request must state the basis for the objection.

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. 71:1