

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2017 SESSION

CHAPTER 692

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-207.1 and 22.1-207.1:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to family life education; curriculum guidelines and curricula.

[S 1475]

Approved March 24, 2017

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-207.1 and 22.1-207.1:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-207.1. Family life education.

A. As used in this section, *"abstinence education"* means an educational or motivational component that has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by teenagers' abstaining from sexual activity before marriage.

B. The Board of Education shall develop by December 1, 1987, standards ~~Standards~~ of learning *Learning* and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades ~~K~~ kindergarten through 12. Such curriculum guidelines shall include instruction as appropriate for the age of the student in family living and community relationships; the benefits, challenges, responsibilities, and value of marriage for men, women, children, and communities; *the value of family relationships*; abstinence education; the value of postponing sexual activity; the benefits of adoption as a positive choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy; human sexuality; human reproduction; dating violence, the characteristics of abusive relationships, steps to take to ~~avoid~~ *deter* sexual assault, and the availability of counseling and legal resources, and, in the event of such sexual assault, the importance of immediate medical attention and advice, as well as the requirements of the law; the etiology, prevention, and effects of sexually transmitted diseases; and mental health education and awareness.

C. All such instruction shall be designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self ~~concepts~~ *self-concepts*, and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities. The Board shall also establish requirements for appropriate training for teachers of family life education, which shall include training in instructional elements to support the various curriculum components.

~~For the purposes of this section, "abstinence education" means an educational or motivational component which has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by teenagers' abstaining from sexual activity before marriage.~~

§ 22.1-207.1:1. Family life education; certain curricula and Standards of Learning.

A. Any family life education curriculum offered by a local school division shall require the Standards of Learning objectives related to dating violence and the characteristics of abusive relationships to be taught at least once in middle school and at least twice in high school, as described in the Board of Education's family life education guidelines.

B. Any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division shall incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of dating violence, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. *Such age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the prevention of sexual violence may include instruction that increases student awareness of the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.*