

Parent Handbook: Family Life Education

Grade 7 SOLs

7.2 The student will recognize the physical development of his or her sex characteristics and how they affect emotional and social growth.

Descriptive Statement: Emphasis is placed on the biological and physiological changes of early adolescence. Attention is given to such secondary sex characteristics as body growth, genital changes, hormonal secretions, the onset of menstruation, and sex-response feelings. Instruction promotes self-awareness and alleviates anxiety through factual information regarding menstruation, spontaneous erections, nocturnal emissions, and differences in growth rates and development.

7.3 The student will realize that physical affection does not have to be sexual, but it also can be an expression of friendship, of celebration, or of a loving family.

Descriptive Statement: The student learns that appropriate expressions of affection are essential for emotional, physical, and psychological health. The student will recognize the difference between appropriate and inappropriate physical affection. Characteristics of abusive relationships will be addressed.

7.4 The student will recognize that sexual behaviors are conscious decisions; that it is important to say "no" to premarital, abusive, and inappropriate sexual relationships; and that appropriate relationships are based on mutual respect, trust, and caring.

Descriptive Statement: Sexual feelings are interpreted as normal and to be expected, but not always to be manifested in behavior. Appropriate dating relationships are based on mutual respect, trust, and caring. Instruction includes explanation of the differences between needs and desires, assertive skills, problem solving or conflict resolution, and alternatives. Refusal skills are taught and practiced by students. Characteristics of abusive relationships are addressed.

7.5 The student will identify messages in society related to sexuality.

Descriptive Statement: The teacher guides the student in discovering and analyzing messages about sexuality found in advertising media, music and videos, television, films, printed materials, and graffiti. Students learn to recognize gender stereotyping and sexual exploitation. They are encouraged to evaluate and counteract any negative effects identified and to engage in a variety of positive activities, rather than spending too much time viewing media containing negative components. Students will demonstrate how these messages affect mental health issues related to sexuality.

- 7.6 Students will explore safety issues related to the Internet.**
Descriptive Statement: Instruction includes how predators can use the Internet to exploit young people; to include human (child/teen sex) trafficking, common techniques and lures used by internet predators; information posted social media sites that makes students vulnerable, and strategies for protecting personal information and seeking adult support in uncomfortable situations.
- 7.7 The student will be aware of the consequences of preteen and teenage sexual intercourse.**
Descriptive Statement: : Instruction focuses on the reasons why sexual abstinence is a healthy choice, including its positive effects on relationships, academics, short and long-term goals, and physical, emotional, and social health. Freedoms associated with postponing sexual activity are discussed.
- 7.8 The student will list the adverse consequences of a pregnancy in early adolescence, as well as the positive benefits of postponing pregnancy until marriage.**
Descriptive Statement: Discussion of responsibilities involved and adverse consequences encompassing the emotional, mental, physical, social, and economic impact on teenage parents.
- 7.9 The student will describe the signs and symptoms of pregnancy.**
Descriptive Statement: Instruction involves physical and psychological changes and the need for early detection of pregnancy through medical testing to ensure a healthy and successful pregnancy.
- 7.10 The student will develop an understanding of and responsibility for family planning.**
Descriptive Statement: Content includes factors to be considered when planning a family.
- 7.11 The student will explain techniques for preventing and reporting sexual assault and molestation.**
Descriptive Statement: Methods of handling assault and molestation, as well as prevention methods, are presented. Emphasis is placed on the importance of avoiding situations which could provide opportunities for molestation and sexual assault, including the homes and cars of acquaintances when no appropriate supervision is available. Approaches and behaviors, both in person and electronically, used by perpetrators are identified and explained. The signs of human sex trafficking and how to seek adult assistance will be discussed. Community resources for victims of molestation and assault are identified.
- 7.12 The student will identify causes, symptoms, treatment, prevention, and transmission of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.**
Descriptive Statement: Topics include the prevention, symptoms, treatment, transmission, and diagnosis of the following diseases in addition to HIV, Chlamydia, Genital Herpes, Gonorrhea, HPV, and Syphilis. In addition, myths are dispelled. High-risk activities, such as needle sharing for injection, intravenous drug use and abuse, and unprotected sexual activity are discussed. Community resources that provide testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV are identified.

7.14 The student will realize the role of peers and the peer group during adolescence, and the nature and purpose of dating.

Descriptive Statement: Discussion focuses on the qualities of friendship, the importance of participating in peer groups that encourage the development of positive personal traits, and the nature of dating. Group dating is presented as a positive first step in developing romantic relationships, demonstrating appropriate and inappropriate dating behavior, utilizing positive mental health practices and fulfilling dating responsibilities.