

# Human Growth and Development Report Memorandum

Date: May 6, 2021

To: Port Townsend School Board Directors

From: Sandy Gessner, Superintendent

Subject: Human Growth and Development Implementation Update for 2020-21

## Section I – Historical Timeline for HG&D Instruction

- In 1988 the Washington State Legislature passed the [AIDS Omnibus Act](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.070).  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.070>  
This act mandates HIV/AIDS prevention education beginning in Grade 5 and continuing through Grade 12.
- In 2017-18 the PTSD School Board asked the Instructional Materials Committee to convene a Human Growth and Development (5-12) Review Committee to make a recommendation for a comprehensive Human Growth and Development Curriculum for grades 5-12.
- Spring 2018 Board Accepted HG&D Recommendation. Committee presented recommendations to the School Board and the School Board accepted the recommendation.
- 2018-19 Lois Sherwood served as consultant to the district:
  - Developed lessons for each grade level using state approved HG&D curriculum
  - Taught lessons in elementary and middle school and supported teachers at PTHS
  - Facilitated Parent Nights
- 2019-20 Lois Sherwood provided professional development to teachers
  - Parent Nights Held at each school with Lois Sherwood's support
  - Teachers began to provide lessons
- March 2020 [Senate Bill 5395](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/sexual-health-education/new-legislation-senate-bill-5395), (<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/sexual-health-education/new-legislation-senate-bill-5395>) Comprehensive Sexual Health Education, passed by the legislature added new requirements for schools in the 2020-2021 school year. The requirements include K-12 education as follows:
  - Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, schools must provide [social emotional learning](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/mental-social-behavioral-health/social-and-emotional-learning-sel) (SEL) (<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/mental-social-behavioral-health/social-and-emotional-learning-sel>) to students in grades K-3. No sexuality content will be required.
  - **Beginning in the 2020-21 school year**, if schools are already providing sexual health education, they must ensure that students get age-appropriate instruction on affirmative consent and bystander training in grades 4-12.
    - **Beginning in the 2022-23 school year**, schools must start providing sexual health education no later than 5th grade. Instruction must be consistent with [Health Education K-12 Learning Standards](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/health-and-physical-education/k%E2%80%9312-learning-standards). (<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/health-and-physical-education/k%E2%80%9312-learning-standards>)
  - **For grades 6-8, Beginning in the 2021-22 school year**, schools must start providing sexual health education at least twice in grades 6-8. This could be two separate units in one grade or ideally, a unit in two different grades.
    - **For grades 6-12**, the focus is on helping students understand and respect personal boundaries, develop healthy friendships and dating relationships, gain a deeper understanding of human growth and development, and develop skills to support choosing healthy behaviors and reduce health risks, including understanding the influence of family and society on healthy sexual relationships. Currently required HIV/STD prevention instruction will continue to be required.
  - **Beginning in the 2021-22 school year**, schools must start providing sexual health education at least twice in grades 9-12 including how to access valid health care and prevention resources. This could be two separate units in one grade or ideally, a unit in two different grades.

## Section II – Current Status

- Salish Coast Elementary:
  - Students across the school receive social and emotional lessons in Grades K-5, using the Second Step Curriculum and other resources.
  - To fulfill state and local district requirements, Salish Coast 5th grade teachers will be providing an e-learning playlist version of the HIV Prevention and Human Growth and Development Education units this spring at the 5th Grade Level. The curriculum and the lessons will be posted along with guidance for students and families. Students will have the opportunity to anonymously submit questions to their teachers. This curriculum will be posted on June 1, 2021 and will remain there until June 11, 2021. A parent information night is being held on April 29, 2021, and parents will be given the opportunity to opt-out of this curriculum. There are six main lessons:
    - Lesson 1 - Introduction, ground rules and distinguish between Sex and Sexuality
    - Lesson 2 - Sexual and Reproductive Anatomy
    - Lesson 3 - Puberty and Adolescence
    - Lesson 4 - Gender Roles/Sexual Identity
    - Lesson 5 - HIV/AIDS, STDs
    - Lesson 6 - Healthy Relationships - Decision Making
  
- Blue Heron and OCEAN:
  - Parents were notified of the HG&D instructional plans on April 12, 2021 (letter and opt-out forms sent through Messenger)
  - Parent information session via Zoom on 4/26
  - Opt-Out forms are due by May 21, 2021
  - Asynchronous lessons will be posted in Google Classrooms from June 1-11, 2021
  - Lessons are based on FLASH Curriculum
  
- Port Townsend High School:
  - PTHS held our HGD Parent Information Session via Zoom on October 27, 2021, session was hosted and presented by Principal Ehrhardt and content teachers Hageman and Kruse
    - Parents who missed the Information Session were allowed to schedule a visit to the school district for curriculum materials review (prior to opt-out)
  - 9th grade lessons occurred in December and January via Zoom in Health class
  - 10th grade lessons occurred in January via Zoom in Biology class
  - 11th and 12th grade lessons are scheduled for May and will occur in person, and via Zoom for distance learners.
  - Dove House presented content to students on affirmative consent and bystander training
  - PTHS teachers taught their own lessons this year (after receiving training from Lois Sherwood in the 19-20 school year)
  - Student Health Clinic nurse held Zoom sessions in classes on available clinic services, including family planning/contraceptives/birth control, and sexual health/STD's (October 2020)

## Section III – Moving Forward/Fiscal Considerations

- The IMC will need to convene a work group to update the current Board Policy 2125 and to reconcile current Board Adopted HG&D requirements with the updated state legislation.
- Fiscal considerations include workgroup compensation and online access to the FLASH Curriculum for future lesson planning. Free FLASH Curriculum licenses provided by KING County have expired.
- Some classroom teachers and content teachers have expressed discomfort with presenting this curriculum to students and would prefer outside presenters be responsible.