



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 28, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Teaching Endorsements Needed to Teach Health and Sexuality Education

It has come to my attention that the Department of Education has offered an informal interpretation about the qualifications needed to teach sexuality education that has been in error. In 1996, a provision that allowed teachers to teach sexuality education through an approved 20-clock-hour training was removed from state legislation. At that time, an interpretation was offered that local districts could each determine the qualifications needed for a teacher of sexuality education in their districts.

Since 1977, however, state legislation has required that those who teach sexuality education must be "qualified to teach health" (*Section 380.1507.5 of the Revised School Code*). The Department determines the subjects a teacher is qualified to teach based on the teacher's certification and teaching endorsements.

Supporting documents may be viewed at www.michigan.gov/healthed. These documents clarify the qualifications needed to teach sexuality education from those needed to teach HIV/AIDS education, identify the support available to help teachers become qualified to teach health and sexuality education, and make related recommendations.

We understand that while this shift will raise the level of expertise among teachers of sexuality education, it will also create staffing difficulties for some schools. In these cases, we encourage districts to apply for a full year permit while an appropriately-endorsed teacher is identified, or while a current teacher pursues appropriate training. Some of our teacher preparation programs are able to offer alternative programs of study for teachers with experience in teaching health. See the supporting documents for more information.

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact your regional School Health Coordinator; Ms. Merry Stanford, Health Education Consultant, by phone at 517-241-1500 or via email at StanfordM@michigan.gov; or Dr. Frank Ciloski, Supervisor of Client Services, by phone at 517-373-6791 or via email at CiloskiF@michigan.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

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