

## **Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction- California Healthy Youth Act**

**(as written in the GCCA Student Handbook, pg.47)**

Gateway College and Career Academy (GCCA) desires to provide a well-planned, integrated sequence of medically accurate and inclusive instruction on comprehensive sexual health and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention.

GCCA's educational program shall provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect them from sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy and to have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors. The school's educational program shall also promote understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development and the development of healthy attitudes and behaviors concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family.

Comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education shall be offered to all students in grades 9-12. The School's curriculum shall support the purposes of the California Healthy Youth Act as specified in Education Code 51930-51939, be unbiased and inclusive of all students in the classroom, and be aligned with the state's content standards. The School's program shall comply with the requirements of law and administrative regulation and shall respect the rights of parents/guardians to supervise their children's education on these subjects.

### *Parent/Guardian Notification and Excuse*

At the beginning of each school year, or at the time of a student's enrollment, parents/guardians shall be notified about instruction in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education, as well as research on student health behaviors and risks, planned for the coming year. In accordance with Education Code 48980, 51938, the notice shall advise parents/guardians:

1. That written and audiovisual educational materials to be used in comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education are available for inspection.
2. That parents/guardians may request in writing that their child not receive comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education.
3. That parents/guardians have a right to request a copy of Education Code 51930-51938.
4. Whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by District personnel or outside consultants.

If the District chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, the notification shall include:

(Education Code 51938)

- a. The date of the instruction
- b. The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
- c. Information stating the right of the parent/guardian to request a copy of Education Code 51933-51934

If the arrangements for instruction by outside consultants or guest speakers are made after the beginning of the school year, the District shall notify parents/guardians by mail or another commonly used method of notification no fewer than 14 days before the instruction is given. (Education Code 51938).

The District may administer to students in grades 9-12 anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation instruments, including tests and surveys, containing age-appropriate questions about their attitudes or practices relating to sex. Prior to administering such a research and evaluation instrument, parents/guardians shall be provided written notice of the administration. Parents/guardians shall be given an opportunity to review the research instrument and to request in writing that their child not participate. (Education Code 51938).

Parents/guardians shall be asked to sign and return to the school an acknowledgment that they have received the notification. Upon written request, a parent/guardian may excuse his/her child from participating in comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education or from participating in questionnaires or surveys regarding health behaviors and risks. Students so excused by their parents/guardians shall be given an alternative educational activity. (Education Code 51240, 51939).

A student shall not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty, or other sanction if the student's parent/guardian declines to permit the student to receive the instruction. (Education Code 51939).

*Legal References:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

*220 Prohibition of discrimination*

*33544 Inclusion of sexual harassment and violence in health curriculum framework*

*48980 Notice at beginning of term*

*51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety*

*51240 Excuse from instruction due to religious beliefs*

*51513 Materials containing questions about beliefs or practices*

*51930-51939 California Healthy Youth Act*

*67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard*