



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 12, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Health Teacher - Guest Presenter Policy

This guidance has been developed by the Michigan Department of Education in response to questions from the field regarding guest presenters in the classroom and the law requiring teachers to be certified and endorsed in their content areas. This document specifically addresses guest presenters in health and sexuality education courses.

The School Aid Act (MCL § 388.1763 – Sec. 163 of Act 207 of P.A. 1990) states that a district that employs a teacher who is not legally certificated in the subject areas and grade levels he/she is assigned to teach, shall have deducted the sum equal to the amount paid that individual for the period of non-certification or illegal employment. The school official who knowingly places that individual in that position may also be subject to a \$1,500.00 fine. As such, within the instructional day:

- A majority of the content in a health education course must be taught by a certified teacher that holds an endorsement which permits the teacher to teach health (MA, MX, KH), including sex education. For example, if a course is taught daily over a 12-week period, that equates to approximately 60 hours of instruction time. The teacher MUST teach more than 30 of those hours.
- If the health education endorsed teacher is not delivering the instruction, he or she must remain in the classroom while the instruction is being delivered.

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If course content and lessons are being taught outside of the classroom setting but within the instructional day, state law regarding teacher certification applies.

If someone (further referred to as a guest presenter) other than the health education endorsed teacher is delivering the instruction the following applies:

- The guest presenter must have the expertise and training in the area he/she is instructing.

The health education endorsed teacher is responsible for:

- Assigning grades to any assignments given by a guest presenter.
- Any testing or assessment must be done collaboratively with the health endorsed teacher.

In regards to sexuality education, the health education endorsed teacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that any laws and district policies related to HIV and sex education are followed (380.1506, 380.1507, 130.1507a, 380.1507b, 388.1766, and 388.1766a), including but not limited to: parent notification; required, allowed and prohibited content; review of materials and methods by the district Sex Education Advisory Board; and local School Board approval of materials and methods.
- For information regarding who is authorized to provide HIV/AIDS instruction please refer to:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Qualifications_of_Sex_Ed_Tchr_3_07_Districts_191454_7.pdf.

For more information regarding the laws pertaining to HIV/AIDS and sexuality education and reproductive health go to: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_38684_29233_29803---,00.html.

Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to Coordinated School Health Education Consultant, Mary Teachout at 517-335-1730 or teachoutm@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance