

**Summary of Comprehensive Health Education (CHE)
Curriculum Framework Changes
May 13, 2014**

Background

- The MCPS Comprehensive Health Education (CHE) curriculum includes instruction in seven content areas established by MSDE:

Mental and emotional health	Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
Personal and consumer health	Family life and human sexuality
Safety and injury prevention	Nutrition and fitness
Disease prevention and control	
- CHE is incorporated, as appropriate, throughout Grades K-5 in Curriculum 2.0 (adopted 2010). The secondary framework establishes the curriculum requirements for the single marking period courses all students must take each year in middle school and the high school .5 credit graduation requirement course.
- The Family Life and Human Sexuality and Disease Prevention and Control portions of CHE in Grade 5, middle school, and high school require parental permission for student participation. The new Framework continues an abstinence-based approach to family life topics.
- On May 14, 2013 the Board dissolved the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development (CACFLHD), as allowed by changes in Maryland State Law. The Board directed the Health Education team to convene a Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising community members and educators, as articulated for all curriculum in Regulation IFA-RA, *Curriculum*. Former CACFLHD members were invited to join the CAC and many did.
- Over the last year, the Health Team and CAC conducted a comprehensive review of secondary Health Education Curriculum, benchmarked with other districts, reconsidered the requirement for the scripted lessons, developed the new framework, and made plans for phased implementation beginning in the Fall of 2014.
- Fifteen community stakeholder meetings took place during the 2013-2014 school year. Stakeholders provided supportive feedback throughout the process.
- A 30 day period of public comment will open after the May 13 Board Meeting. Montgomery County parents and citizens are invited to review the Framework and provide feedback on the MCPS web site. Final action will occur at the June 17 Board Meeting.

Highlights and Changes to the Framework

- Based on feedback from community members, educators, and students, many of the repetitive topics of the curriculum will be streamlined so teachers can spend more time on fewer topics at each grade level.
- The CHE Secondary Framework has been aligned to:
 - The National Health Education Standards, including the important skills of analyzing influences, accessing information, interpersonal communication, decision-making, goal setting, self-management, and personal, family, and community health advocacy.
 - The Strategic Planning Framework: *Building Our Future Together: Students, Staff, and Community*, including a clear focus on instruction that promotes creative problem solving, social emotional learning, and academic excellence.
 - Common Core State Standards, with a focus on literacy and critical thinking skills.
 - The Maryland State Department of Education CHE standards.
- The Family Life portions of Grade 6 will be removed due to repetition of Grade 5 material.
- The scripted lessons on sexual orientation will be replaced with instructional planning resources similar to all content areas, including, teacher guidance, suggested resources, and student resources. Based on the recommendations of the CAC and the need to balance the amount of family life content taught at each grade level, the sexual orientation lessons in middle school will be moved from Grade 8 to Grade 7.
- Updated resources will be identified for many topics, including sexual orientation, drug trends, dating violence, managing stress, social media use, cyberbullying and bullying, and gang violence.

Rollout Plans

If the Board of Education approves the Framework, teachers will receive professional development this summer. In the 2014-2015 school year, we will implement the shift away from scripted lessons. In the 2015-2016 school year, updated courses in Grades 6, 7, and 8 will be rolled out. The updated high school course will begin in the 2016 - 2017 school year.