Walden School Instruction and Human Sexuality Policy

Walden School recognizes the personal and societal benefits of health education taught by qualified educators and mentors. As such, the school has an ethical duty and an obligation under Utah law to provide accurate and responsible instruction for students in certain areas of health education including instruction on the physical and emotional aspects of human sexuality and the mental, emotional, social, and physical changes that occur throughout a person’s life.

As such, Walden School’s board, faculty, and administration will abide by all aspects of R277-474-3, School Instruction and Human Sexuality, guidelines including:

1. **Parental Choice**
   - Utah law provides for parent choice in the instruction of human. The parent or legal guardian of a student must provide written consent before the student may participate in Human Sexuality Instruction or Maturation Education.
   - Consent must be obtained using the Parental Notification Form developed by the Utah State Office of Education, as described in Utah Admin. Code R277-474-1(H).
   - The signed Parental Notification Forms must be retained by the school for a reasonable period of time but no less than one year.
   - If a student’s parent chooses not to have the student participate in Human Sexuality Instruction, the school shall either waive the requirement to participate or provide the student with a reasonable alternative to the Human Sexuality Instruction.
2. Health and Human Sexuality Committee
The school will establish a committee that, by law, must include the following individuals:
- Parent,
- Health professional,
- School health educator, and
- Administrator

The Committee shall include at least as many parents as school employees. Committee members are appointed and reviewed annually by school administration or the Board. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the membership. The Committee shall designate a chair and select its own procedures. The Committee is subject to the Open and Public Meetings Act. The Committee shall review and approve all guest speakers and guest presenters and their respective materials relating to Human Sexuality Instruction in any course and Maturation Education prior to their presentations. The Committee shall not authorize the use of any Human Sexuality Instructional program or Maturation Education program not previously
- approved by the state Instructional Materials Commission and recommended by the Utah State Board of Education,
- approved by the Board consistent with the procedures outlined in Utah Admin. Code R277-474-6, or

The Committee shall set the scope and sequence of Human Sexuality Instruction and Maturation Education using materials adopted by the Board as described in Section 6 of this policy. The Committee may recommend instructional materials to the Board. The Committee is authorized to set the scope and sequence for Human Sexuality Instruction and Maturation Education using materials adopted by school administration or the Board.

3. Educator Responsibility
Before providing instruction under this policy, newly hired or newly assigned educators must attend state-sponsored professional development outlining the human sexuality curriculum and the criteria for Human Sexuality Instruction in any course offered in the public education system. All educators providing instruction under this policy must attend such professional development at least once during every three years. Due to the sensitive nature of human sexuality and maturation, individuals providing instruction under this policy should do so in an atmosphere of respect and dignity. Instructors will avoid remarks or actions that might reasonably be construed to have a demeaning or embarrassing effect on students. Educators shall ensure that students for whom the consent is not obtained as required by this policy do not participate in the instruction. Educators may respond to spontaneous student questions for the purposes of providing accurate data or correcting inaccurate or misleading information or comments made by students in class regarding human sexuality.