

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. Will teachers and counselors help our students determine their sexual identity or orientation?**
 - a. No. This is a family and/or individual decision. Our employees will be teaching tolerance and respect for all, but not promoting or assisting students to understand their own gender identity.
- 2. In school will my son or daughter be referred to in a gender-neutral form?**
 - a. No. All students will be referred to by the gender their families put on the school registration forms. If the family or child makes changes to their identity they will notify the school and corrections will be made in our system and in how we refer to your child. School personnel will not make any gender-specific decisions and will only use what the student, parent or guardian have provided to us.
- 3. If a family chooses to educate their child at home in the areas of human sexuality will students be punished for non-participation?**
 - a. Students are not to be punished in any way for their parents decision to opt out of participation. However, an alternative assignment may be assigned that is similar in length of the regular assignment.
- 4. At what age / grade level do we begin to educate students about suicide prevention?**
 - a. Not until grade 6 will “suicide” be specifically introduced in the strands of “Promotion of Mental, Social, and Emotional Health” and “Violence and Suicide Prevention”. This is where ODE has placed this topic.
- 5. Sexual Education / Human Sexuality Education begins at what age / grade level?**
 - a. According to the Oregon Department of Education and our CESP this broad topic is introduced in Kindergarten. However, it’s introduction is in the following standards K-3: “Explain the difference between appropriate touch and inappropriate touch,” “Identify parents, and other trusted adults they can tell if they are feeling uncomfortable about being touched,” “Demonstrate how to clearly say no, how to leave an uncomfortable situation, and how to identify and talk with a trusted adult if someone is touching them in an uncomfortable way,” and to “Practice and use refusal skills if someone is touching you inappropriately.” At grade 4 students are beginning to learn about puberty, reproductive systems including anatomy and function, sexual harassment and sexual abuse, and how to say no.
- 6. Are boys and girls going to be taught in the same room or separated for certain units of study?**
 - a. K-3 will be taught in the same room because the content (see question 4 above) is fairly general. In grades 4-5 some content may be delivered separately to ensure student comfort levels. However, all content will be shared with both groups. Grades 6-10 will be in same classroom or may be

separated. However, once again all content will be shared with both groups.

- 7. Can students make their own choice which group to join?**
 - a. Students will participate in the group that their family and student have identified as their gender. The school will not select a gender but will use the gender that a family enrolls their student as, or, if a family or student asks the school to change their gender identification to the principal.
- 8. What if they want to attend both the boys and girls units of study?**
 - a. The content will be the same for both boys and girls.
- 9. What grade level will gender expression and gender identity be taught?**
 - a. In eighth grade the following standards are first introduced: “Describe gender roles, gender identity and sexual orientation within healthy sexuality” and “Differentiate between biological sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.” Prior to the eighth grade gender issues are linked to “Recognizing diversity among people” and “Describing differences and similarities in how boys and girls may be expected to act and provide examples of how friends, family, media, society and culture influence the way youth act based on gender.”
- 10. Where did the standards come from?**
 - a. The Oregon Department of Education.