



"Health Connected - Teen Talk" & Health Education Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

**Most recently added questions shown in light orange*

BACKGROUND:

At the Tuesday, June 1, 2021 Board of Education Meeting, "Instructional Services - California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) Material Selection for 7th and 9th Grade: Teen Talk" was approved 5-0 by Board of Education members. Teen Talk was one of three materials that were considered for adoption - all of which the District solicited stakeholders for feedback and input on, prior to the June 1st vote. Recordings of previously held virtual information sessions and background about all the materials reviewed is available on the dedicated [CVUSD Health Education website here](#).

Q1: Why new materials for comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction ?

A: The CVUSD adopted new health curriculum materials to become compliant with the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). The California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) was enacted by the California state legislature on January 1, 2016. This law integrates the instruction of comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education within public schools across the State of California. [The law](#) requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades seven to twelve, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.

Q2. Why is this the first time I have heard that CVUSD would be adopting a new health curriculum that is aligned to the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) for Grade 7 and Grade 9)?

A. Please see [this timeline](#), which outlines the steps that CVUSD has taken to notify and engage the community since January 2021.

Q3. I have seen a lot on social media about "resources". Will this be taught to my child?

A. NO. Information in these resources will NOT be part of the instruction or materials provided to students. No content from these resources are found in the "Health Connected - Teen Talk" curriculum materials, which is what CVUSD will use. This includes the books "Scarleteen" and "SEX Second Edition" (both books are being referenced as "resources" in misinformation on social media and in misinformation stated by public speakers at recent board of education meetings), which the District will not be using, purchasing or giving students access to. Again, to reiterate, CVUSD will NOT be using the "resources" that are peddled on social media. We encourage our parents, students and families to directly contact CVUSD staff by submitting a question [here](#) for factual information.

Q4. Will my child be provided the page of "resources" and QR codes found within the Teen Talk curriculum?

NO. The page with QR Codes in "Health Connected - Teen Talk" will NOT be provided to students. However, the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) does require that schools provide resources to students that are participating in comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction. CVUSD has created its own bank of resources - [CVUSD Community Resource List](#) (for students in grade 7 & grade 9)- to be in compliance with CHYA, this resource list is available now for parents/guardians to preview prior to any comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction.

Q5. Are words and phrases like “BDSM”, “blood play”, or “golden showers” used in the curriculum?

A. NO. These words and phrases are not in the “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” materials. The suggestion that these terms and words will be used is completely false. We encourage our parents, students and families to directly contact CVUSD staff by submitting a question [here](#) for factual information.

Q6. How can I see the actual, approved “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” materials?

A. The “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” materials continue to be available to review at the CVUSD District Educational Center at 1400 E. Janss Road. These materials have been available since March 24, 2021.

Q7. Where can I review the complete “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” student materials online?

A. High school 9th grade student materials are now available to examine [here](#). Only these specific handouts, presentations, and activities will be presented to students. Middle school instruction for 7th grade students will not occur until Spring 2022. Student materials for 7th grade students and some specialized special education programs will be made available on this website in the coming months.

Q8. How can I see what will actually be taught to my child?

A. Currently, 9th grade high school materials are available to review at the link above. Middle school instruction for 7th grade students will not occur until Spring 2022. Student materials for 7th grade students and some specialized special education programs will be made available on this website in the coming months.

Q9. Will the *Teen Talk* curriculum be taught in elementary schools?

NO. The *Teen Talk* materials approved by the Board of Education during the June 1st Board of Education Meeting, was only for 7th and 9th grades. The Board did give direction for district staff to update, in the future, the Family Life video series currently used for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. More information about the Family Life video series is available on the dedicated [Human Growth and Development - Grades 4, 5, 6, webpage](#).

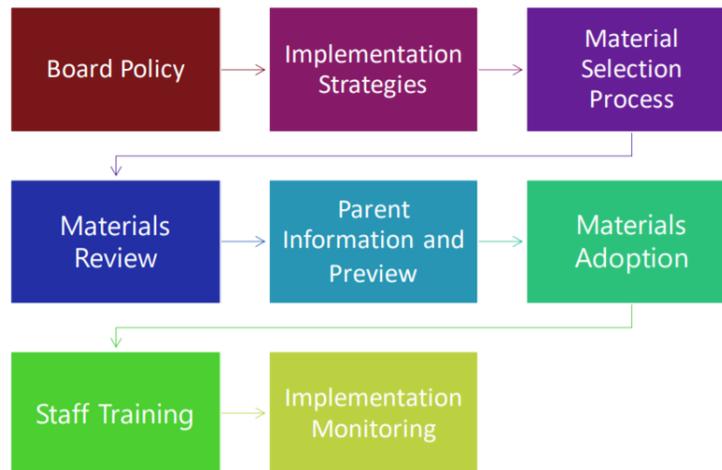
Q10. Can I opt my student out of comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction?

A. Yes, families may opt their student(s) out of comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction lessons by providing a note to their student’s teacher and/or school site. Specifically, California Education Code 51938 states: *“(a) A parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent (“opt-out”) process. A school district shall not require active parental consent (“opt-in”) for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.*

Q11: What are the next steps to implementation?

A. The graphic below was shared during public presentations on April 14th, 22nd, and 28th, describing CVUSD's steps to implementation. On June 1, 2021, "Health Connected - *Teen Talk*" was adopted by the Board of Education for Grade 7 and Grade 9. Staff training will occur in Fall 2021. A detailed "course of study" will be developed, and the actual student materials will be provided for public inspection prior to any comprehensive sexual health instruction. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, on-going implementation and monitoring will occur by analyzing opt-out rates, and through surveys and discussions from parents, students, and staff. Future adjustments in the instruction and materials will be made based on this feedback.

Steps to Implementation at CVUSD



Q12: What information was considered before selecting "Health Connected - Teen Talk" for Grade 7 and Grade 9 comprehensive sexual health curriculum?

A. CVUSD engaged in an extensive process both providing information and soliciting input on three proposed materials - "Health Connected - Teen Talk", "Positive Prevention Plus", and "Rights, Respect, Responsibilities". Presentations from this process are included on [CVUSD's Health Education Webpage](#). During the May 18, 2021 Board of Education Meeting, this [Review of Proposed Comprehensive Sexual Health Curricula](#) was provided and summarizes the feedback of students, stakeholder groups, and the Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group (ASHWG). The California Department of Education directly refers to ASHWG for curriculum guidance on implementing the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA). Moreover, CVUSD's Board of Education provided direction to review curriculum materials that were analyzed by ASHWG for compliance with the CHYA.

Q13: Why did CVUSD not consider the HEART Curriculum?

A. CVUSD staff did meet with community and publisher representatives from the HEART curriculum. However, the HEART curriculum was not part of the Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group (ASHWG) analysis of comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instructional materials review conducted by the California Department of Education. Due to the HEART curriculum publisher not allowing this State-level review, the HEART Curriculum was not considered for adoption by CVUSD.

Q14: Will students participate in a condom demonstration? (Question added on 10/5)

A: **No. Students will not participate in any demonstration using materials or manipulatives.** CHYA does require instruction on all FDA-approved contraceptive methods, including condoms. Students will learn step-by-step instructions on how to store, use, and discard a condom. For high school, this exact information is available on "[Session 6 – Sexually Transmitted Infections](#)." Middle school instruction will not be provided until Spring 2022 and

student materials will be released in November for families to review; however, instruction on this topic will be similar to “Session 6 – Sexually Transmitted Infections” now available in the high school materials.

Q15: What is the difference between the CVUSD course of study that has been developed and the Teen Talk curriculum? *(Question added on 10/6)*

A. Teachers use the Teen Talk curriculum to develop the course of study and the lesson plans. While these lesson plans are derived from the curriculum, they do not encompass the full set of activities and lessons in the curriculum. The CVUSD lesson plans for 9th grade are available for review [HERE](#) and no other instructional materials will be used, including those Teen Talk activities that were omitted from the full Teen Talk curriculum.

Q16: Why isn't CVUSD providing access to the entire Teen Talk curriculum? We've heard that parents have had to buy it to review all of the pages. *(Question added on 10/6)*

A. On March 24, 2021, CVUSD communicated to all families that the entire Teen Talk curriculum was available for public review at the District Office Educational Center (1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks) and high school offices. This occurred when the Board of Education was considering three proposed curriculum to satisfy the requirements of the CA Healthy Youth Act for grades 7 and 9. The full set of Teen Talk materials continues to be available at the DEC and high school offices. Please review [this timeline](#) of CHYA-related actions that have occurred in 2021.

It's important to note: the 9th grade course of study that has been developed does not use the entire Teen Talk curriculum. CVUSD has made accessible the student-facing materials that will actually be taught in the classroom, which are available for review [HERE](#) (**these are the actual materials and lesson plans that will be taught in the 9th grade curriculum**).

Q17: Will any other supplemental materials (handouts, videos, presentations) be used? *Question added on 10/6)*

A. No. Only the CVUSD published course of study and materials will be used. This includes the identified lessons/activities in the course of study and no other instructional materials.