

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE BILL 2909

By: Coody (Ann)

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Health
8 Education for Middle Schools Act of 2016; providing
9 for the teaching of health education in the public
10 schools contingent upon funding; providing that
11 school district may determine when instruction is
12 offered; providing for certain areas of instruction;
13 providing that instruction shall be offered as a
14 separate semester course; requiring teachers to hold
15 a health education certificate; allowing exemption
16 from certain instruction under certain circumstances;
17 requiring written notification of exemption right in
18 a manner to be determined by school district;
19 encouraging local school districts to work with
20 certain community-based organizations; requiring
21 certain materials to comply with state law; requiring
22 local school districts to notify parents or guardians
23 of the names of community-based organizations;
24 providing that certain copies be made available to
parents or guardians upon request; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.6k of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Health
2 Education for Middle Schools Act of 2016".

3 B. Contingent upon the appropriation of funding by the
4 Legislature for this purpose, health education shall be taught in
5 the public schools of this state during grade seven or eight, in
6 accordance with the Priority Academic Student Skills for Health and
7 Safety adopted by the State Department of Education. Each school
8 district may determine during which grade level, either grade seven
9 or eight, and by which methods health education shall be taught. At
10 a minimum the following ten units, which are incorporated in each
11 textbook from the state-adopted health education textbook list,
12 shall be used to fulfill the requirements:

- 13 1. Physical activity;
- 14 2. Nutrition;
- 15 3. Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;
- 16 4. Behavioral health;
- 17 5. Oral health;
- 18 6. Environmental health;
- 19 7. Growth and development;
- 20 8. Injury prevention;
- 21 9. Bullying prevention; and
- 22 10. Wellness.

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1 C. Health education instruction shall be provided in a separate
2 semester health education course utilizing curricula from the state-
3 adopted health education textbook list.

4 D. Teachers instructing this course shall be certified by the
5 State Board of Education to teach health education.

6 E. Any student whose parent or guardian presents to the school
7 principal a signed statement that any of the units identified in
8 subsection B of this section conflict with his or her sincerely held
9 moral or religious beliefs shall be exempt from instruction in that
10 unit or units and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall
11 result therefrom. The school district shall provide prior written
12 notification to the parents or guardians of the right of the student
13 to be exempt from instruction as provided for in this subsection.
14 Each school district shall determine the means of providing written
15 notification to the parents or guardians which will ensure effective
16 notice in an efficient and appropriate manner.

17 F. Local school districts shall be encouraged to work with
18 community-based organizations, including county health departments,
19 local hospitals, county extension offices, and other organizations
20 with proven expertise in the subject areas that provide materials
21 and resources, including personnel, in certain areas of instruction.
22 Any materials and resources provided or used to teach health
23 education shall comply with all requirements of state law. Local
24 school districts shall be required to notify parents or guardians in

1 advance of the names of the community-based organizations under this
2 subsection. Copies of the materials and resources provided by the
3 community-based organizations must be made available to parents or
4 guardians upon request.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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