

## "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)?** (Question added on 6/28)

**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 will create its own bank of resources to be in compliance with CHYA, which will be available 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 are available to review at the CVUSD District Educational Center at 1400 E. Janss Road. These materials have been available since March 24, 2021 and have been reviewed by about one dozen individuals as of June 16, 2021. The CVUSD Educational Center’s summer hours of operation are 9am to 1pm on weekdays from Monday, June 21st through Friday, July 30th. The office is closed on Monday, July 5th.

**Q7. Why can’t I review the complete “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” materials online?** *(Question added on 6/28)*

**A.** The availability of complete curriculum on the internet is based on copyright and is/is not publicly available on the internet at the discretion of publishers. The CVUSD contacted the publisher of “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” with the request to make the complete materials available online and the request was denied. The District was informed that the publisher does not permit school districts to upload the complete curriculum online, citing proprietary concerns.

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

**A.** Teachers and staff will create a “course of study” which will include only the activities and lessons in “Health Connected - *Teen Talk*” that will actually be taught in the classroom. All families will be notified when this “course of study” is available for review. This will occur before the district’s required 14-day notification prior to any comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The Board did give direction for district staff to update, in the future, the Family Life video series currently used for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. More information about the Family Life video series is available on the dedicated [Health Education webpage](#).

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

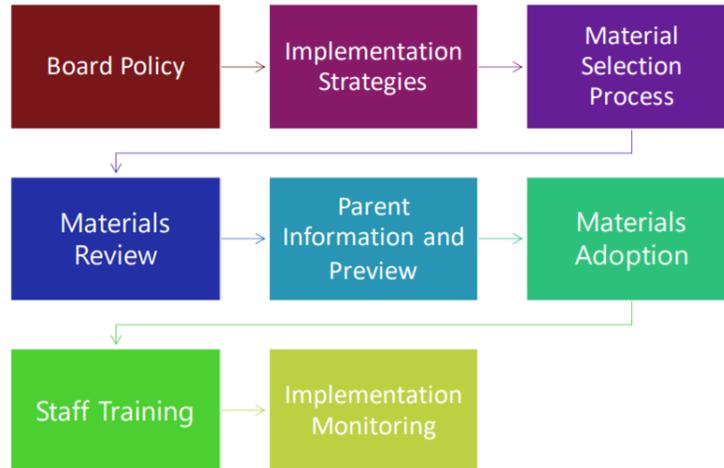
**A.** Yes, families may opt their student(s) out of comprehensive sexual health & HIV/AIDS instruction lessons by providing a note to their student’s teacher and/or school site. Specifically, California Education Code 51938 states: *“(a) A parent or guardian of a pupil has the right to excuse their 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?** *(Question added on 6/28)*

**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?** (Question added on 6/28)

**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?** (Question added on 6/28)

**A.** CVUSD staff did meet with community and publisher representatives from the HEART curriculum. However, HEART curriculum was not a part of the ASHWG's analysis of instructional materials and therefore not reviewed for possible adoption.