Omaha Public Schools
Human Growth and Development Curriculum
Frequently Asked Questions for Community Partners Working in OPS Buildings

What grade levels is Human Growth and Development offered?
At the elementary level, Human Growth and Development is offered at 4th, 5th and 6th grades with parent permission. Boys and girls are separated during the lessons. In middle school, it is offered for 9 weeks in grades 7 and 8; and at the high school level for one semester during the 10th grade.

Do students have to take Human Growth and Development?
No, parents have the opportunity to “opt in” their child for Human Growth and Development lessons in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. In 7th, 8th and 10th grades, parents may “opt out” their child for all or any part of Human Growth and Development.

How will I know what will be taught and at what grade levels?
The content standards for Human Growth and Development are posted on the district website and a link to these will be posted on each school’s website.

How can parents preview the curriculum before deciding to opt in/out?
Curriculum that can be linked (per copyright) is available on the OPS website. Copyrighted curriculum may be viewed at the school through the Human Growth and Development teacher or school nurse.

How can my organization support OPS?
If the organization decides to provide programming related to Human Growth and Development, the organization should be aware of the content standards that have been approved by the School Board and try to align activities with when they are being taught in the classroom. The pacing guides that detail when each lesson is scheduled to be taught will be located on the district website and a link to these will be posted on each school’s website.

How can we assure parents that their child is not indoctrinated with values that are different from what their family believes?
The Omaha Public Schools District believes that parents should be the primary educators in matters of human growth and development. The school will present information about different topics and encourage students to go home and talk with their parents about family beliefs by using optional discussion assignments that provide opportunities for parent and child dialogue. Parents also have the opportunity to opt their child out of topics or lessons they are not comfortable with their child learning about or opt their child out of the whole course.

What speakers or groups could our organization utilize for teaching Human Growth and Development topics?
Upon request to the OPS Human Growth and Development Supervisor, an approved list of guest speakers will be provided. These speakers have gone through the process of meeting with district level supervisors to ensure that their message and programming align with our standards and promote inclusive activities for our students.

Is it appropriate for our organization to distribute condoms or other forms of contraception to students in our program?
No, OPS does not permit the distribution of condoms or any other material not part of the Human Growth and Development adoption.