



CM/RRR

May 7, 2020

Office of the Superintendent, Board of Trustees  
Michelle Rusnack, Supervisor Health and Physical Education  
Austin Independent School District  
4000 S. IH 35 Frontage Road  
Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Superintendent Cruz and Board of Trustees:

The district's adoption of a new, radical sex education curriculum last October has many parents rightfully concerned and seeking clarification on the intent of school officials going forward. Due to the coronavirus pandemic causing schools to alter their teaching plans, it has remained unclear whether Austin ISD still plans to teach the adopted human sexuality curriculum that was scheduled to be taught in Austin schools during the month of May. We are asking the district to fulfill its obligation to keep parents fully informed of their plans by answering the following questions:

- (1) Will sex education be taught in May 2020 as originally planned for 2019-2020 school year?
- (2) If so, how can parents opt-out online from having their children participate in the human sexuality program?

Texas Values recommends avoiding this sex education instruction and materials due to its blatant attack on religious beliefs, family values and parental rights, its promotion of identity confusion, and its encouragement of risky sexual activity. Furthermore, the additional demands on students and teachers due to the coronavirus-related distance learning approach should leave all of us agreeing that the focus should be on core subjects, and not on controversial content on sex education that is not required teaching by state law.

If Austin ISD insists on teaching sex education during these last weeks of an already difficult time period for families, our organization recommends instruction based on abstinence as the preferred method for avoiding teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases as required by Texas Education Code, Sec. 28.004.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Saenz  
Attorney and President of Texas Values

Cc: Trustees Rodriguez, Jr., C. Anderson, Elenz, L. Anderson, Mathias, Teich, Ashy, Wagner, Singh