

In the Spring of 2023, the Benicia Unified School District approved new sexual education curriculum for the district. You can request to review the new curriculum by contacting Stephanie Rice, srice@beniciaunified.org, (707) 748-2679. We cannot provide the curriculum here due to copyright limitations. You can also contact beniciafreedom@gmail.com for more information on specific references.

Approval for the new sex-ed curriculum passed unanimously. According to the Director of Educational Services, only three parents had concerns about it, and several parents were excited about it (see 49:40 on the timeline of this video, provided by the BUSD: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Mrqq76SkoeQ?feature=share>). When asked if all of the parents had seen the new curriculum, the board was told all parents had been emailed about the curriculum, and 15 parents attended the online meeting when it was discussed.

CONCERNS FOUND IN THE NEW BUSD CURRICULUM:

CA Education Code Sections 51204.5 and 51930 to 51939 set state requirements which BUSD must adhere to. However, individual school districts have a lot of discretion regarding how these requirements are presented to students, and our school board has allowed the following items to be presented to children in Benicia:

During the presentations made to parents for the curriculum review process, it was often stated that the goal of the new sex-ed curriculum is to teach scientifically accurate, medically correct information, yet several lessons are not scientifically accurate or medically correct (examples to follow).

Children in BUSD schools as young as 10 (maybe younger) are being asked to identify their pronouns, and this is now part of the 5th grade curriculum. This forces a gender discussion beyond the scope of the state requirements and complicates an already overburdened classroom environment (see the "What Should I Do?" Guide for 5th Grade).

Inserting gender identity unnecessarily (such as in math classes, which has recently occurred) is taking time from core learning and does not benefit the students. The math curriculum at Benicia Middle School now involves word problems with non-binary people, including the titles "Mx." This addition to the math curriculum was not reviewed by parents. The BUSD Director of Educational Services explained that sometimes curriculum is updated after approval and the inclusion of non-binary people in math problems is an example of this (Stephanie Rice, stated March 15, 2023).

Teaching kids there isn't any standard or truth, and that you can believe anything you want to believe is not scientifically accurate or medically correct. For example, the notion that a girl can decide to be a boy, and a boy can decide to be a girl, is not true and should not be taught. This is taught at all levels in the new curriculum.

The integrity of the new materials must be questioned when suggested videos teach that parents must ask consent to touch their own young children (the video title is "Tips with Children Ages 6-8"). "If you would like to give your [6 to 8 year old] child a hug, fix their hair, or wipe something from their clothes or face, ask them permission to do so first. Encourage your child to ask you for a hug or cuddle if they want one." This encourages an erosion of the fundamentally important, intimate relationship between a parent and child, and makes it transactional. The freedom to show affection without parameters between parents and their young children is critical to healthy development and to prevent a generation

of sociopaths. This could also be a goal of critical theory, to separate children from parents: [READ MORE HERE](#).

The curriculum talks about the anatomy of “a person assigned male or female at birth,” as if being male or female is changeable, and then directs students to arrange cards in the correct order of a 28-day menstrual cycle showing where sperm would need to be present for a pregnancy to occur. So the curriculum supports the idea that individuals can decide if they are male or female, regardless of anatomy, yet a person who decides to be male, yet born as female, cannot provide sperm, and a person who decides to be female, but was born as male, cannot menstruate. This is incoherent and is not scientific or medically accurate (see 7th and 10th grade curriculum; 3Rs Lesson 4).

This is a quote from BUSD 3Rs HS Benicia Curriculum Review 3.6.23: “Lesson 4 explains reproduction to students using a PowerPoint presentation and includes a teacher’s resource with sample definitions and language that can be used. Students then receive cards and try to arrange themselves in the correct order of a 28-day menstrual cycle showing where sperm would need to be present in order for a pregnancy to occur as well as how methods of contraception can prevent pregnancy. The homework is watching a short video about pregnancy myths and answering questions on a worksheet.”

The curriculum now includes teaching gender stereotypes to children with the Genderbread Person, which BUSD explained as a lesson that people can do all sorts of different things regardless of gender. However, with the new gender ideology that is being taught, boys who like “feminine” things may believe they are actually girls, and girls who like “masculine” things may believe they are actually boys.

Our 10-year-olds will also be taught that they can receive puberty blockers to prevent their body from going through changes that make them uncomfortable. Adolescence has always been a time of discomfort, and over the years this discomfort has manifested itself in eating disorders, cutting, drug/alcohol use, which has never been encouraged or celebrated. Now our children will be taught that puberty blockers are a viable option. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries will forever change the lives of those who fall victim to these dangerous experiments that create a lifetime of dependence on medical care, enriching the unscrupulous doctors who promote this. (Found in the 5th Grade PT Instructor Guide; “What Should I Do” Lesson and Guide)

Children will no longer be taught that men produce sperm and impregnate women, and that women give birth. The language has been replaced with androgynous wording.

The curriculum says the children are taught definitions for transgender, genderqueer, gender identity, and gender expression. They are asked, “if you felt on the inside like you were a girl, but everyone perceived you as a boy and pushed you to be masculine, what do you think that would be like?” The assignment “Gender Scripts” directs the children to discuss how “assigned females” and “assigned males” are supposed to behave. While CHYA requires instruction on “gender, gender expression, gender identity, and negative gender stereotypes,” the curriculum appears to encourage gender confusion, not gender clarification. All parents should question how this is helpful, scientifically sound, or medically accurate. Also, it is untrue and dangerous to teach children that they can change their gender on a whim or that gender is based on stereotypes.

In the Sexual Decision Making lesson, oral, anal, and vaginal sex are defined. This is taught to 12-year-olds. CA Ed Code Section 51933 requires that “instruction and materials shall be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds.” Yet teaching

children about oral and anal sex violates this law since several cultures would not find this teaching appropriate.

The curriculum has an activity where students brainstorm ways to support fellow students to visit clinics for confidential services if needed without parental consent. Slide 43 of the Cardea presentation says that students will use websites provided by the teacher to learn their reproductive rights in CA. CA Family Code Section 6925 allows children to obtain contraception, get abortions, and to receive STD/STI testing without parental consent, but we were unable to find the CA Ed Code section that requires this be taught in school. We have asked the school district to send this to us.

The curriculum includes teaching children how to use internal and external condoms and dental dams. The videos that will be used were not provided. In the past at BHS, inappropriate videos were used (such as "How to Use a Condom" Burnett Foundation Aotearoa, a completely inappropriate video of two men masturbating). On March 31, 2023, the school district stated there will be no videos teaching about dental dams, and that contraception would be discussed in 7th grade. The introduction of dental dams to children is jarring (many adults do not know what this is). This instruction is not helpful to 10-, 12-, and 15-year-olds. This seems unnecessarily graphic and appears to violate CA Ed Code Section 51933.

Another lesson asks students if they see examples of couples in the media or movies discussing condom use, and the class is supposed to consider how this might impact young people's ideas of what is supposed to happen in a sexual relationship. What kind of media/movies did the creators of this curriculum think children watch? Is this suggesting that children should base their understanding of sexual relationships on what is shown in the media?

During the Cardea presentation the representative said the reason the curriculum removes the idea of male and female was "to be more inclusive." But no longer identifying females as having ovaries and males as having testes, and instead teaching "'some bodies' have ovaries and 'some bodies' have testes" is not scientific. Medically accurate and fact-based information requires teaching that females have ovaries and males have testes, and there are some instances of intersex people. This would include everyone, and is more accurate than teaching that we're all just "gender fluid" or that being male or female is a choice.

The current 6th grade math curriculum uses the title "Mx" for non-binary word problem characters. We suggested using androgynous names without titles which is inclusive, keeps classes on track, and keeps brains focused on math, and math teachers don't have to spend precious class time discussing social issues. Androgynous names are actually more inclusive than titles such as "Mx," since "Mx" is very specific and exclusive. Parents should be made aware that the current math curriculum is different from the originally approved (and vetted) curriculum. The school district explained that this happens when vendors update their materials. So if vendors weave social agendas into revised editions, the actual curriculum that gets presented to children may be different than what the parents originally approved, and this is concerning.

Overall, our schools should be focused on core academics, preservation of American democracy ([patriotism](#) is another important topic worth discussing), and preparation of each student to thrive as an adult and to be a contributing American citizen. Veering off course into gender and sexuality discussions (beyond what the state has required) does not serve our children or community well.

Opting out of the sexual health curriculum is an option for families. But the reality is most families will not pay attention to what is being taught, and many children will be subject to classroom instruction that is not scientifically accurate or medically correct, and that should be a concern for all of us.

During the review process, not all materials were accessible. For example, there was no access to the teachers' guide under the 5th grade high school health section; in the 7th grade "Positive Prevention Plus" materials, the files in the "presentations" folder in the Puberty Talk zip folder did not open; the teachers' guide for the 10th grade curriculum wasn't accessible; the 10th grade Cardea presentation (slide 22) mentions a "humorous crossword puzzle involving anatomical terms and functions" that wasn't available; slide 28 mentions three video clips about consent that weren't provided; slide 34 does not provide the video mentioned; slide 41 has a planned parenthood link that does not work; slide 43 mentions websites that will be used by the teacher but websites are not provided.

This curriculum used to be called "Family Life" but is now "Sexual Health." A subtle change, but it is worth noting that "family" has been removed.