

Welcoming Schools

In response to community input and related research, the Welcoming Schools initiative, identified in our strategic plan, will embed the following into our culture and climate work across schools:

1. LGBTQ safe schools training and implementation
2. Development of LGBTQ inclusive curriculum in disciplines
3. Ongoing support, discussion and monitoring of student development of an understanding of consent and respect for boundaries
(<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/12/consent-every-age>)

Implementation of the Michigan Model for Health in grades 6, 7/8

Note that the Teacher's Guide is a framework that is adjusted and supplemented to meet the grade level standards and developmental needs of students. Consent, developing healthy relationships and LGBTQ inclusivity will be addressed across topics as foundational understandings.

The components of the Michigan Model for Health currently addresses consent and healthy relationships explicitly in the Social Emotional Health curriculum in the following lessons:

Grade 6: Lesson 1: Taking Healthy Risks in Friendships (pp. 17-31)

Objective: Analyze how friendships may involve positive and negative risks.

Lesson 2: Listening to and Appreciating Our Friends and Others (pp.35-50)

Objective: 1. Demonstrate effective listening strategies and 2. Demonstrate the ability to express appreciation.

Lesson 3: Speaking Assertively and Respectfully (pp. 51-71)

Objective: 1. Recognize appropriate times to use assertive communication skills and 2. Demonstrate the ability to use assertive communication skills.

Lesson 4: Managing Strong Feelings in Healthy Ways (pp.73-82)

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to use practical strategies to manage strong feelings.

Lesson 5: Expressing Anger Without Angry Behaviors (pp.83-101)

Objective: Explain the difference between angry feelings and angry behavior.

Lesson 6: Getting Help from Others

Objective: 1. Identify criteria to determine whether another person is able to help one make healthy decisions and solve problems; and apply these criteria to identify people who can provide help and 2. Analyze the importance of getting help from an adult when it is needed.

Lesson 7: Making Healthy Decisions (pp.121-138)

Objective: Describe the decision making and problem solving steps.

Lesson 8: Practicing How to Make Decisions and Solve Problems (pp. 139-148)

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to make a decision or solve a problem using criteria to evaluate solutions.

Lesson 9: Finding Ways to resolve Conflicts (pp. 149-167)

Objective: 1. Describe the characteristics of conflict that can be resolved and the steps of effective conflict resolution and 2. Demonstrate the ability to use the steps of conflict resolution.

Grade 7/8: Lesson 1- Why Do I Behave the Way I Do? (pp.1-13)

Objective: Describe how feelings and thoughts help to determine behavior.

Lesson 5: Managing Anger and Listening Tips

Objective: 1. Identify different facets of anger, analyze hypothetical situations to identify signs of anger, 2. Apply skills to manage strong feelings, and 3. Demonstrate effective listening skills

Lesson 6: Empathy and I-Statements (pp. 77-91)

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to be empathic and use I-statements.

Lesson 7: Decision Making and Problem Solving (pp.93-110)

Objective: Demonstrate effective problem solving and decision making skills.

Lesson 8: Conflict Resolution (pp.111-134)

Objective: Demonstrate effective conflict resolution skills.

Lesson 9: Taking Control

Objective: 1. Analyze influences that promote aggression and violence, Identify safety guidelines to avoid dangerous situations, 2. Demonstrate strategies for avoiding dangerous situations, including refusal skills, 3. Examine situations where adult help is needed, including depression.

Lesson 11: The Many Faces of Bullying-Part 2

Objective: 1. Define and identify different forms of sexual harassment, examine how reporting sexual harassment is the best way to reduce it, 2. Examine the role of bystanders in reducing harassment, and 3. Analyze the impact of sexual harassment on individuals who are harassed and the consequences for those who choose to harass others.

Lesson 12: Choose Friends Wisely (pp. 193-204)

Objective: 1. Analyze the characteristics desired in a friend, 2. Analyze friendship characteristics of self and current friends.

Lesson 13: Protect Yourself-Untangle the Relationship Snags and Stay Away from Negative Relationships (pp.207-213)

Objective: Apply four optional ways to manage conflicts with friends, including walking away.

Lesson 14: Healthy Future Relationships (pp.215-234)

Objective: 1. Examine the characteristics of a negative or abusive relationship and 2. Synthesize a rationale for using dating guidelines to avoid abusive relationships.

WPS teachers will work to make this a gender neutral curriculum to address the needs of LGBTQ youth and community inclusivity. We will supplement with grade appropriate lessons as identified as necessary.

Note: Health teachers will be trained by DESE on the “Safe Schools Program” for LGBTQ youth. Health teachers received PFLAGG professional development in August 2015. This will be scheduled again as an update to the training.