

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

Resolution Concerning Colorado Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

WHEREAS, Colorado youth have a right to receive medically and scientifically accurate information to empower them to make informed decisions that promote their individual physical and mental health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, this right shall apply to all youth, regardless of their geographic location, ethnic or racial background, family income, ability, sexual orientation, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, parents, caregivers, community organizations, and other trusted adults serve as an essential part of the education process and may rely on health, education and other professionals to provide evidence-based information that empowers youth to make decisions that are consistent with their own values and life goals; and

WHEREAS, the information, education and skills youth receive during their formative years provide the foundation for responsible decision-making about personal behaviors and important life decisions throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, the decisions individuals make regarding their sexual and reproductive health impact the public health and welfare of the community in which the individual lives; and

WHEREAS, Denver youth still face many barriers in obtaining the medically accurate information and resources they need to make informed and responsible decisions and lead healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention science-based, medically accurate, age appropriate, culturally relevant, and comprehensive sexuality education programs have been proven to help youth delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce the frequency of sexual activity, reduce number of sexual partners, and increase condom and contraceptive use; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention these changes in behavior have been demonstrated to prevent unintended pregnancy and the spread of STIs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Colorado enacted Colorado House Bill 2007-1292 to establish content standards for the provision of human sexuality courses taught in public schools throughout the state of Colorado; and

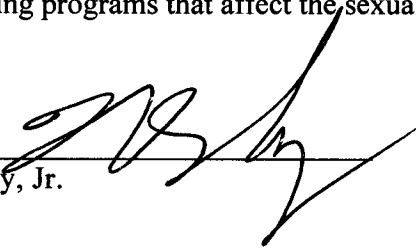
WHEREAS, in 2009 the Colorado State Board of Education adopted academic content standards for comprehensive health education that support youth in making informed, responsible decisions about their health and in having access to the tools they need to live healthy lives; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Youth Agenda recognizes increased access to developmentally appropriate comprehensive health education for Denver's youth in order to motivate and inspire young people to improve their health and avoid health-related risk behaviors; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by Denver Public Schools Board of Education:

- (1) That, through adopting this resolution, we recognize the need to continue and expand efforts to ensure that all young people have access to science-based, comprehensive, medically-accurate, culturally relevant, and age-appropriate sexuality education, information and resources to make informed decisions about their health and relationships; and
- (2) Denver Public Schools and eligible organizations shall pursue funding and other federal support to implement programs pursuant with the goals outlined in this resolution; and
- (3) That we recognize that the provision of sexual and reproductive health education that incorporates comprehensive, science-based, and age-appropriate standards can result in youth delaying sexual activity until they are ready, avoiding unwanted consequences of sexual behavior, learning medically accurate information about their health, and promoting positive messages concerning growth, development, body image, gender roles, and all aspects related to healthy relationships and sexual behavior; and
- (4) That we respect and affirm the right of parents, to the extent permitted by Colorado law, to make health decisions for their children; and
- (5) That broad-based community partnerships are essential when developing policies and implementing programs that affect the sexual and reproductive health of Denver's youth.

Nate Easley, Jr.
President



Jeanne Kaplan
Secretary

