

Proposal to Include Infertility Information in the State of Kansas' Human Health and Sexuality Curricula

Amy Fowler

Elliot School of Communication

Abstract: Although education on human health and sexuality is a compulsory part of Kansas public high school curricula, at least one component is missing: instruction on abnormal reproductive system processes. Some of the more common abnormalities of reproductive processes begin during the teenage years, or, in some cases, are present even earlier. Proper education in the major types and causes of infertility could allow students to seek treatment or resolution for such. When diagnosed early, some of the contributors to, and causes of, infertility can be mitigated or cured. Through a review of the existing relevant literature, the author's own data (generated from surveys), and interviews with those in the field, the author will defend her position that the Kansas public high school curricula for human health and sexuality should be expanded to include information about abnormal reproductive system processes. The specific information would include the three major types of dysfunction for males and females (each), and the symptoms, causes, treatments and/or cures for such. The finished product of this project will include a policy persuasive paper addressing the topic, a list of suggested curricular additions, and supplemental instructional media. It is the author's view that this type of information is important for the publicly-educated population, because, when left undiagnosed and untreated, reproductive system dysfunction negatively impacts an individual's ability to make appropriate family-planning decisions. Wider awareness of reproductive system dysfunctions could lead to an increased rate of diagnosis and appropriate treatment for such.

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