POLICY: ACCESSIBILITY OF CONDOMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Origin: Pedagogical Services
Authority: Resolution #95-04-26-7.3
Reference(s):

RATIONALE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BOARD POLICY

As a result of a resolution passed by the Central Parents’ Committee on May 11, 1994, the Instructional Services Department* undertook to draft a policy on the installation of condom vending machines in high schools upon request by their respective communities.

A preliminary discussion on the development of an EMSB policy took place at the Education and Facilities Committee meeting which was held in February 1990 and a resolution followed.

Sex education is an integral part of the Moral and Religious Education and Personal and Social Development programs. The Instructional Services Department has reinforced the importance of human sexuality education by providing in-service to those teachers responsible for implementing the programs.

In the school year 1993-1994, the Royal West Academy school committee* passed a resolution seeking Board authorization to install condom vending machines in both men’s and women’s washrooms, ensuring that appropriate education and information would precede installation.

It may be anticipated that in the near future, a larger number of orientation committees*, concerned by the spread of AIDS, STD’s, and teenage pregnancies, will request installation of condom vending machines as a measure of prevention.

* Please note the following changes subsequent to the adoption of this policy –
- the Instructional Services Department was renamed Pedagogical Services Department
- school and orientation committees were replaced by governing boards
FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BOARD POLICY

The framework adopted for the development of a Board policy is based on the principle that any request for installation of condom vending machines must be part of a local educational plan adopted by the secondary school orientation committee after consultation with the school community on this sensitive and important issue, at the same time respecting the MEQ educational programs on the subject.

In conformity with the above, the Instructional Services Department proposes the following policy concerning the accessibility of condoms in vending machines in secondary schools.

POLICY STATEMENT

Secondary schools wishing to provide accessibility of condoms to students through the installation of condom vending machines must submit an educational plan for approval by the Board which clearly outlines:

1. that the school community of the requesting school (parents, teachers, students and support staff) is informed of the content of the sex education programs and approves of the installation of condom vending machines;

2. that the orientation committee* of the school, after consultation with the school community, approves the request;

3. that human sexuality education is and shall continue to be an ongoing priority of the school;

4. that the MEQ objectives in human sexuality education in Moral and Religious Education and Personal and Social Education programs shall be covered at each secondary level.

5. that in the sex education program, a session shall be included in which students observe and/or practice the proper manipulation of condoms using artificial organ models;

6. that the students shall be informed of their responsibility in the use of the machines;

7. that machines shall be installed in the washrooms of both sexes.

* Please note that subsequent to the adoption of this policy, governing boards have replaced the orientation committees.
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School

1. to prepare for the installation of the condom vending machines, and provide, through the orientation committee*, an educational plan in conformity with the criteria identified in the policy;

2. to ensure that the quality of the condoms meets the norm (reservoir tip, lubricant containing non-oxynol 9, and visible expiry date);

3. to monitor, evaluate and report back to the Pedagogical Services Department on the pre- and post-installation processes.

Board

1. to approve the educational plan of the requesting school upon satisfaction that it adheres to the human sexuality objectives defined in the MEQ programs;

2. to provide professional development to ensure that teachers assigned to teach sex education are well prepared to do so.

Additional Information

Since condoms are currently available at the CLSC, they are also available from the CLSC nurse in most schools. Presently, teachers who are not at ease with sex education may request that the nurse teach some of the components.

* Please note that subsequent to the adoption of this policy, governing boards have replaced the orientation committees.