



FAQ regarding changes to Board Policy 5141.25

Q: Will expanding the Condom Program to middle school encourage middle school youth to have sex?

A: No. There is no correlation between making contraception available and youth choosing to have sex; research actually shows the contrary. SFUSD has had a condom availability program in high schools since 1992. According to SFUSD's biannual Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 26% of high school students have had sexual intercourse, well under the national average of 46.8%. Condom use for high school is reported to be approximately 60%. That same data show that 5% of middle school students have had sexual intercourse and condom use of those middle school students is 62%.

Q: If passed, can any middle school student get a condom at school?

A: Interested students will meet with school district nurses and/or school social workers privately for assessment, education, and intervention addressing risks and effectiveness of condom use. Students will also be reminded that abstinence is the only 100% effective method to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Only after this education session can students receive condoms.

Q: Will parents know this is happening?

A: Parents are notified of the SFUSD Condom Availability Program via the Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook. In addition, there will be parent-child discussion suggestions that will be posted on the district website and sent home for parents/guardians. SFUSD staff always attempt to engage parents in the discussion of their child's wellbeing, when appropriate, and staff encourage students to do the same.

Q: Can parents opt-out their child from the program?

A: The California Family and Health and Safety Codes legally allow for youth to receive reproductive health care, including contraception, without parent consent.

Q: What will the program cost?

A: There is no cost to the District for the condoms or educational materials related to them. These are provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Q: Do other school districts have a middle school condom program?

A: Yes. Both Los Angeles Unified (LAUSD) and Oakland Unified (OUSD) school districts have begun similar programs.