

Bridges Charter will provide students in grades 7 with a **Comprehensive Sexual Health program and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education** as outlined by the state under **the California Healthy Youth Act** to include 5 primary purposes:

- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and from unintended pregnancy;
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family;
- Promote understanding of sexuality as a normal part of human development;
- Ensure pupils receive integrated, comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV prevention instruction and provide educators with clear tools and guidance to accomplish that end;
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to have healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors.

Furthermore Bridges Charter shall align with the following mandate:

- Bridges Charter will provide a parent/guardian notification of the curriculum and surveys on sexual health and human trafficking at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment for 7th grade families.
- A parent/guardian may request in writing that his/her child be excused from participating in all or part of the HIV/AIDS prevention or sexual health education and/or survey.
- The student will not receive any academic penalty. Alternate educational curricula will be provided on “negotiation and refusal skills to assist the pupil in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision making skills to avoid high-risk activities.”
- Written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education will be made available for inspection in the school office upon request.
- The comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education will be taught by school personnel.
- Comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education **are both mandated instruction** and shall occur once in middle school and once in high school. The *EC* defines comprehensive sexual health education as "education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on pregnancy, contraception, and STIs" and HIV prevention education as "instruction on the nature of HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), methods of transmission, strategies to reduce the risk of HIV infection, and social and public health issues related to HIV and AIDS."
- Abstinence may not be discussed in isolation. The *EC* requires that instruction and materials include information that abstinence is the only certain way to prevent HIV, other STIs, and unintended pregnancy. However, it also states: "Instruction shall provide information about the value of delaying sexual activity **while also providing** medically accurate information on other methods of preventing HIV and other STIs and pregnancy." "Abstinence-only" sex education, which offers abstinence as the only option for preventing STIs and unintended pregnancy, is not permitted in California public schools.
- All instruction and materials must support and align with the purposes of the California Healthy Youth Act and with each other. Instruction and materials may not be in conflict with or undermine each other or any of the purposes of the law. For example, schools may not use materials that, in promoting abstinence, focus exclusively on the failure rates or perceived disadvantages of condoms or contraception.

In response to AB 1227 Bridges Charter School is required to teach California's school-age population how to avoid becoming victims of exploitation, help them understand the problem of human exploitation and learn ways to address the problem through service initiatives. At least once in middle school, 7th grade being the target group, we will provide instruction to students on human trafficking including:

- The prevalence, nature, and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking
- Techniques to set healthy boundaries
- How to safely seek assistance

The curriculum used will be from the *PROTECT* Program <http://protectnow.org/our-program-2/>

The middle school curriculum (appropriate for ages 11-14) used will be based on:

Protecting a Masterpiece

This lesson builds upon the concept of the inner voice, introducing the establishment of boundaries through use of words, body language, time, and physical space. It includes the importance of emotional pauses and an emphasis on responding to their gut feeling.

The students are taught about the many forms that child abuse can take (physical, emotional, neglect, sexual), and that there are also different types of human trafficking, such as forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

Optional Components for Elementary grade (ages 4-11) are:

Safe People, Safe Places, Safe Choices

This lesson establishes foundational concepts critical to ending human trafficking, focusing on equipping students with tools to develop personal boundaries that will help keep them physically and emotionally safe, both online and in-person.

Health Education Resources:

Bridges website:

https://www.bridgescharter.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=992474&type=d&pREC_ID=1946563

Positive Prevention Plus - A comprehensive evidence-based sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention curriculum for grades 7-12 and out-of-school youth, written in compliance with the updated California Education Code including "The California Healthy Youth Act" (AB 329) and "Sexual Harassment and Violence Instruction" (SB 695) and the National Health Education Standards.

PROTECT Program - Protecting a Masterpiece