
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local school district opts not to adopt comprehensive sex ed curriculum

Cupertino, Calif., April 5, 2017—Over the past several months, a specialized Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) task force has diligently lead an effort to recommend for adoption an up-to-date sexual health education curriculum that best meets the needs of its students, while complying with the comprehensive new requirements of the [California Healthy Youth Act](#) (CHYA). This diverse group, facilitated by an adolescent sexual health expert with more than 20 years' experience from the locally-based program Bay Area Communities for Health Education, was comprised of CUSD teachers, parents, and administrators, as well as a student from the local high school district.

After a lengthy and thorough review of several alternatives, the task force ultimately recommended Health Connected's Teen Talk Middle School curriculum (TTMS), believing that above all others, it was not only most compliant with current state laws, but that it was also in closest alignment with the CUSD educational approach—prioritizing interactive learning, promoting inclusivity, encouraging critical thinking, and respecting personal values.

On Tuesday, March 28, the school board decided not to adopt TTMS. Health Connected understands that the school board considered a multitude of factors to arrive at this decision—as is the case in most processes of this nature. But, we also acknowledge that some of these factors were simply outside Health Connected's realm of control.

In every school Health Connected serves, we strive to provide students with not only education about sex and sexuality, but also with a pathway to social-emotional development. Skill-building around healthy relationships, open communication, and respecting values are cornerstones of our programs. Yet, we know each community has unique values and needs all its own. The state of California recognizes this, too, affording all parents the opportunity to opt their child out of all or part of any sexual health education instruction. With these sentiments in mind, we respect the school board's decision, as a reflection of the current values and needs of its community.

However, as a nonprofit dedicated to promoting adolescent sexual health, we would be remiss not to note that as of January 1, 2016, all students in California public schools are required to have access to sex ed instruction that is aligned with the CHYA at least once in 7th

or 8th grade and once in 9th - 12th grade. Therefore, all sexual health curricula implemented throughout the state will contain the same content (or a close variant) as does Health Connected's, lest it be out of compliance.

As has been the case over the past two decades, Health Connected will continue to put youth and families first, striving to deliver medically accurate, age appropriate programs that are inclusive and validating of *all students* regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or socioeconomic background.

Visit us online to learn more about the [CYHA](#), and get answers to some of the most [frequently asked questions](#) we've received from the Cupertino community during the CUSD TTMS adoption process.

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About Health Connected

Health Connected provides comprehensive sexual health education, training and support services to over 10,000 adolescents, families, teachers and medical professionals each year. Our mission is to help young people feel confident and supported to make informed decisions about their own sexual health. We do this by providing comprehensive sexual health education through three innovative programs: Youth Services (puberty and sexuality education in schools), Parent Services (parent/child communication about sexual health), and Provider Services (training and technical assistance for education and medical professionals). All of our programs are based on Health Connected's four [proprietary sexual health curricula](#) for 5th-12th graders. In 2016, leading sexual health experts in California found Health Connected's Teen Talk Middle School and Teen Talk High School curricula to be in closest compliance with the [California Healthy Youth Act](#) amongst its peers.