Health Curriculum

Grades 6-8

"Successful preparation of students for the opportunities, rigors and advances of the 21st Century cannot be accomplished without a strong and sustained emphasis on the health and wellness of all students. Today's students are continually bombarded with physical, mental, and social influences that affect not only learning in school, but also the lifelong health of the citizens that schools are preparing for graduation. To that end, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education (NJSLS-CHPE) were revised to address the need for students to gain knowledge and skills in caring for themselves, interact effectively with others, and analyze the impact of choices and consequences."

Reference: New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Student Learning Standards, 2020.

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Unit Title	Timeframe	New Jersey Student Learning Standards	
Nutrition	Trimester 1	2.2.8.N.1: Analyze how culture, health status, age and access to healthy foods can influence personal eating habits. 2.2.8.N.2: Identify skills and healthy behaviors that can support adolescents in losing, gaining, or maintaining healthy weights. 2.2.8.N.3: Design sample nutritional plans for families with different lifestyles, resources, special needs, and cultural backgrounds; then consider the similarities and differences among the plans. 2.2.8.N.4: Assess personal nutritional health and consider opportunities to improve health and performance (e.g., sports drinks, supplements, balanced nutrition).	
Personal Growth and Development	Trimester 1	 2.1.8.PGD.1: Explain how appropriate health care can promote personal health. 2.1.8.PGD.2: Analyze how genetics and family history can impact personal health. 2.1.8.PGD.3: Describe the human reproductive systems, the external and internal body parts and their functions, and the natural variations that exist in human bodies. 2.1.8.PGD.4: Analyze the relationship between healthy behaviors and personal health 	
Pregnancy and Parenting	Trimester 1	2.1.8.PP.1: Describe pregnancy testing, the signs of pregnancy, and pregnancy options, including parenting, abortion, and adoption. 2.1.8.PP.2:Summarize the stages of pregnancy from fertilization to birth. 2.1.8.PP.3: Identify prenatal practices that support a healthy pregnancy and identify where to find medically accurate sources of information about prenatal care. 2.1.8.PP.4: Predict challenges that may be faced by adolescent parents and their families. 2.1.8.PP.5: Identify resources to assist with parenting.	
Health Conditions, Diseases, Medicines	Trimester 2	2.3.8.HCDM.1: Justify how the use of universal precautions, sanitation and waste disposal, proper food handling and storage, and environmental controls can prevent diseases and health conditions. 2.3.8.HCDM.2: Determine the role of genetics in being susceptible to disease and health conditions and identify the types of behavior that might reduce the risk factors. 2.3.8.HCDM.3: Describe behaviors which may contribute to or prevent a person from being susceptible to disease and illness (e.g., cardiovascular, stroke, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIS), HV/AIDS, breast cancer, HPV, testicular cancer). 2.3.8.HCDM.4: Describe the signs, symptoms, and potential impacts of STIs (including HIV). 2.3.8.HCDM.5: Compare and contrast behaviors, including abstinence, to determine the potential risk of pregnancy and/or STIs (including HIV) transmission. 2.3.8.HCDM.6: Explain how the immune system fights disease. 2.3.8.HCDM.7: Explain how certain methods of disease prevention, treatment strategies, and appropriate medicine promote health-enhancing behaviors.	
Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drugs	Trimester 2	2.3.8.ATD.1: Examine how the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by adolescents has impacted their lives and the lives of family members socially, emotionally, and physically, 2.3.8.ATD.2: Relate the use of alcohol and other drugs to decision-making, consent, and risk for sexual assault and abuse. 2.3.8.ATD.3: Determine the factors that contribute to different rules, laws, and policies in schools, communities, and states regarding alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes, vaping, cannabis products), and other drugs. 2.3.8.ATD.4: Explain the impact of alcohol and other drugs on areas of the brain that control vision, sleep, coordination, reaction time, judgment, and memory. 2.3.8.ATD.5: Analyze how the influence of peers and different social settings (e.g., home, school, party) can result in positive and/or negative outcomes.	
Dependency, Substance Disorder, Treatments	Trimester 2	2.3.8.DSDT.1: Summarize the signs and symptoms of alcohol, tobacco, and drug disorders. 2.3.8.DSDT.2: Compare and contrast the various services that are available for individuals affected by substance disorders in the community and at the state level. 2.3.8.DSDT.3: Determine the impact that alcohol and drugs can have on an individual's social, emotional, and physical well-being. 2.3.8.DSDT.4: Examine how alcohol and drug disorders can impact the social, emotional, and physical lives of friends and family members. 2.3.8.DSDT.5: Compare and contrast the various services that are available for family members and others affected by substance disorders in the community and at the state level.	

Community Health Services & Support	Trimester 3	2.1.8.CHSS.1: Identify professionals at school and in the community available to assist with health conditions and emergencies, sexual health services, life skills training and describe how they can be accessed (e.g., suicide prevention, CPR/AED, breast self-examination, traumatic stress). 2.1.8.CHSS.2: Describe the state and federal laws related to age of consent, minors' ability to consent to health care, confidentiality in a healthcare setting, child pornography, sexting, safe haven and sex trafficking. 2.1.8.CHSS.3: Identify the state and federal laws related to minors' access to sexual healthcare services, including pregnancy and STIS/HIV prevention, testing, care, and treatment. 2.1.8.CHSS.4: Identify community resources and/or other sources of support, such as trusted adults, including family members, caregivers, and school staff, that students can go to if they are or someone they know is being sexually harassed, abused, assaulted, exploited, or trafficked. 2.1.8.CHSS,5: Identify medically accurate sources of information about STIs, including HIV, such as local STIs /HIV prevention, steps to obtain PrEP and PEP, testing, and treatment resources. 2.1.8.CHSS,6: Develop an advocacy plan regarding a health issue and share this information in an appropriate setting. 2.1.8.CHSS,7: Collaborate with other students to develop a strategy to address health issues related to climate change. 2.1.8.CHSS,8: Analyze difficult situations that might lead to feelings of sadness, anxiety and or depression and identify individuals, agencies or places in the community where assistance may be available.
Emotional Health	Trimester 3	 2.1.8.EH.1: Compare and contrast stress management strategies that are used to address various types of stress-induced situations (e.g., academics, family, personal relationships, finances, celebrations, violence). 2.1.8.EH.2: Analyze how personal attributes, resiliency, and protective factors support mental and emotional health.
Social Health	Trimester 3	2.1.8.SSH.1: Differentiate between gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. 2.1.8.SSH.2: Develop a plan for the school to promote dignity and respect for people of all genders, gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations in the school community. 2.1.8.SSH.3: Demonstrate communication skills that will support healthy relationships 2.1.8.SSH.4: Compare and contrast the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships. 2.1.8.SSH.5: Analyze the similarities and differences between friendships, romantic relationships as exual relationships. 2.1.8.SSH.6: Examine how culture influences the way families cope with traumatic situations, crisis, and change. 2.1.8.SSH.6: Identify factors that are important in deciding whether and when to engage in sexual behaviors. 2.1.8.SSH.8: Identify factors that can affect the ability to give or perceive consent to sexual activity (e.g., body image, self-esteem, alcohol, other substances). 2.1.8.SSH.9: Define vaginal, oral, and anal sex. 2.1.8.SSH.10: Identify short and long-term contraception and safer sex methods that are effective and describe how to access and use them (e.g., abstinence, condom). 2.1.8.SSH.11: Develop a plan to eliminate or reduce risk of unintended pregnancy and STIs (including HIV)
Personal Safety	Trimester 3	 2.3.8.PS.1: Assess the degree of risk in a variety of situations, and identify strategies needed to reduce deliberate and non-deliberate injuries to self and others (e.g., digital safety, sexting, dating violence, domestic violence, gang violence, human trafficking, nonconsensual sexual encounters, other threats of violence). 2.3.8.PS.2: Define sexual consent and sexual agency. 2.3.8.PS.3: Define interpersonal and sexual violence and describe their impacts on sexual health (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual abuse, incest, rape, domestic violence, coercion, dating violence). 2.3.8.PS.4: Describe strategies that sex traffickers/exploiters employ to recruit youth. 2.3.8.PS.5: Determine the effectiveness of laws designed to keep children and adolescents healthy and safe (e.g., consent, child pornography, human trafficking, parental notification, drugs). 2.3.8.PS.6: Demonstrate strategies to use social media safely, legally, and respectfully (e.g., sexting, sextortion). 2.3.8.PS.7: Evaluate the impact of technology and social media on relationships (e.g., consent, communication, respect).