

By: Lowe

H.B. No. 4208

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to including fetal development instruction as part of the required health curriculum for public school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (r-2) to read as follows:

(r-2) The State Board of Education shall by rule require students to receive fetal development instruction, including the humanity of the unborn child and the concept that life begins at fertilization, as part of the essential knowledge and skills for the health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B) at appropriate grade levels. The instruction must include:

(1) information on:

(A) the human reproductive process, pregnancy, and infertility; and

(B) the prevention of birth defects, including information on the effect of drugs, alcohol, and environmental hazards such as lead;

(2) a description of the growth and development of an unborn child that occur during each trimester of pregnancy;

(3) to the extent the videos are publicly available, a showing of the following:

(A) LiveAction, Meet Baby Olivia (2025);

(B) St. John Paul II Life Center, A Glimpse

1 Inside (2025); and

2 (C) "The Miracle of Life," NOVA (PBS Feb. 15,  
3 1983); and

4 (4) the informational materials described by Section  
5 171.014, Health and Safety Code.

6 SECTION 2. Section 28.004(c), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (c) The local school health advisory council's duties  
9 include recommending:

10 (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided  
11 in:

12 (A) health education in kindergarten through  
13 grade eight; and

14 (B) if the school district requires health  
15 education for high school graduation, health education, including  
16 physical health education and mental health education, in grades 9  
17 through 12;

18 (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum  
19 appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent physical  
20 health concerns, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, Type 2  
21 diabetes, and mental health concerns, including suicide, through  
22 coordination of:

23 (A) health education, which must address  
24 physical health concerns and mental health concerns to ensure the  
25 integration of physical health education and mental health  
26 education;

27 (B) physical education and physical activity;

1 (C) nutrition services;  
2 (D) parental involvement;  
3 (E) instruction on substance abuse prevention;  
4 (F) school health services, including mental  
5 health services;  
6 (G) a comprehensive school counseling program  
7 under Section 33.005;  
8 (H) a safe and healthy school environment; and  
9 (I) school employee wellness;  
10 (3) appropriate grade levels and methods of  
11 instruction for human sexuality instruction;  
12 (4) strategies for integrating the curriculum  
13 components specified by Subdivision (2) with the following elements  
14 in a coordinated school health program for the district:  
15 (A) school health services, including physical  
16 health services and mental health services, if provided at a campus  
17 by the district or by a third party under a contract with the  
18 district;  
19 (B) a comprehensive school counseling program  
20 under Section 33.005;  
21 (C) a safe and healthy school environment; and  
22 (D) school employee wellness;  
23 (5) if feasible, joint use agreements or strategies  
24 for collaboration between the school district and community  
25 organizations or agencies;  
26 (6) strategies to increase parental awareness  
27 regarding:

1 (A) risky behaviors and early warning signs of  
2 suicide risks and behavioral health concerns, including mental  
3 health disorders and substance use disorders; and

4 (B) available community programs and services  
5 that address risky behaviors, suicide risks, and behavioral health  
6 concerns;

7 (7) appropriate grade levels and curriculum for  
8 instruction regarding the dangers of opioids, including  
9 instruction on:

10 (A) opioid addiction and abuse, including  
11 addiction to and abuse of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl; and

12 (B) methods of administering an opioid  
13 antagonist, as defined by Section 483.101, Health and Safety Code;  
14 ~~and~~

15 (8) appropriate grade levels and curriculum for  
16 instruction regarding child abuse, family violence, dating  
17 violence, and sex trafficking, including likely warning signs that  
18 a child may be at risk for sex trafficking, provided that the local  
19 school health advisory council's recommendations under this  
20 subdivision do not conflict with the essential knowledge and skills  
21 developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter;  
22 and

23 (9) appropriate curriculum for the fetal development  
24 instruction described by Section 28.002(r-2), provided that the  
25 local school health advisory council's recommendations under this  
26 subdivision do not conflict with the essential knowledge and skills  
27 developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter.

1           SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
2 school year.

3           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.