

High School Health

Identify the effects of addiction on self and others. 1aHS1.19

Identify sources of support for people who suffer from addiction. 1aHS1.20

Identify community services for addiction treatment. 1aHS1.21

Since 2014, the Maryland General Assembly has enacted four State Education laws that have impacted Health Education in Maryland public schools. These laws have mandated instruction related to consent, opioids, sexual abuse and assault, and hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators. Maryland high school students are required to complete a half-credit of high school Health, equating to approximately 67 hours of instructional time for the duration of their high school years. Requiring instruction focused solely on the dangers of gambling and gambling addiction will force the elimination of other core concepts or corresponding skills. Health Education must be relevant as our world changes.

In skills-based Health Education programs, the goal is for students to recognize addiction and seek guidance from a trusted adult or helping professional. The skills associated with this goal would include decision-making, accessing valid and reliable information, analyzing influences, and advocacy related to all types of addiction, including gambling.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **SB 243**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.