

Rationale for Coeducational Instruction of Human Growth and Development Units at 5th and 6th Grades

- Boys and girls have the same questions about body changes and sexual reproduction and it is important for each to see that the other has questions too.
- Boys and girls need the opportunity to communicate with each other and separate instruction implies that they should not communicate and talk together about sexual issues. The caution here is that this lack of communication would carry with them into adolescence and adulthood.
- Coeducation reduces treating members of the opposite gender as objects to be discussed in highly sexualized ways.
- Coeducation eases embarrassment in both sexes and enhances communication.
- Self-esteem is enhanced because all individuals are confident that both sexes know and learn the same information.
- It emphasizes that it's important to know about others, not just one's own sex.
- It reinforces the idea that responsibility in sexual situations is shared by both sexes.
- It helps to break down myths and misinformation exchanged whenever students talk about human growth or sexual matters.
- It clarifies the importance of the option that both sexes have to say "NO".
- Furthermore, it sets an abnormal and unusual tone when human growth and development is taught in segregated classes, particularly when material from other content areas is not taught in this manner.