

p.a.p.a. Training for Teachers

What is p.a.p.a.?

p.a.p.a. stands for *Parenting and Paternity Awareness* program. This curriculum was originally developed by the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) Child Support Division and has been in use in Texas public schools since 1995, the year the first version was published. At its initiation, p.a.p.a. was reviewed and endorsed by the Texas PTA and all statewide teacher organizations. A new version was issued in 2008, and more than 7,000 Texas educators and community professionals were trained in using the curriculum. The updated 2014 edition of the curriculum will be distributed through a one-day teacher training starting with the 2014-2015 school year.

Is p.a.p.a. required?

The 80th Legislature passed HB 2176, which directs the State Board of Education (SBOE) to work with the OAG to develop a parenting and paternity awareness program that school districts must use in the high school health curriculum, effective the 2008-2009 school year. In collaboration with the Texas Education Agency and the SBOE, the OAG has committed resources to provide the p.a.p.a. curriculum, along with training, to all high school health teachers to ensure full compliance with the statute.

What does p.a.p.a. teach?

The learning objectives of p.a.p.a. include: responsible parenting; a basic understanding of paternity and child support laws; skills for healthy relationships; financial implications of becoming a parent; impact of father involvement; benefits of stable family relationships on children; and relationship violence prevention. It should be noted that p.a.p.a. is not a sex education curriculum.

What's in p.a.p.a.?

The curriculum contains 10 sessions of approximately one hour. Sessions include video segments of 2-3 minutes, and a lesson supported by group activities, handouts and workbook exercises that may be done in class or as homework. Health (and other curriculum area) TEKS covered in each session are identified to facilitate incorporation of the p.a.p.a. curriculum into an already full semester of health topics.

What do teachers say about p.a.p.a.?

A survey of teachers trained in using the curriculum found that 93% thought it easy to use and 100% thought it was successful in teaching students the rights and responsibilities of parenthood and helped the students think more seriously about their own future as a parent.

How do teachers receive training on p.a.p.a.?

The OAG provides free training through the regional education service centers (ESCs), school district in-service and other community based organizations. To find training near you, check out the online p.a.p.a. training calendar at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs, click on p.a.p.a. and then educators, or contact the p.a.p.a. team at papa@texasattorneygeneral.gov.

What does the training consist of?

The training is one full day (6 hours) and provides an overview of the p.a.p.a. curriculum, explanation of the critical legal issues addressed in the curriculum, and the background training to effectively use it with students. Teachers will receive a free copy of the curriculum as well as other resource materials.

Can educators other than health teachers receive training and use the curriculum?

Yes. Although health teachers will be prioritized, other teachers are welcome to receive training along with a free copy of the curriculum.