

A Sex Education Advisory Board Member's Guide to Sex Education in Michigan K-12 Schools

An overview of how sex education content is determined and approved and how you can be an effective advocate for comprehensive sex education in Michigan public schools



Developed with generous funding from the National Institute for Reproductive Health and United Way of Washtenaw County Opportunity Fund



What does a sex education advisory board (SEAB)* do?



*SEABs can be called different things in different districts

Establishes sex education program goals and objectives



Reviews, recommends, and approves program materials



Evaluates, measures, and reports effectiveness of program



What are the guidelines for sex education in Michigan?



Sex ed looks different in every school district in Michigan. Curriculum is decided at the district level.

REQUIRED

Discuss Abstinence

as the only 100% effective method of preventing STIs and pregnancy

Refusal Skills

like saying no to sex and not pressuring someone into unwanted touching or sexual activity

Healthy Relationships

what they look like and how to recognize signs of abuse

State Laws

regarding sexuality, age of consent, and teen parenting

ALLOWED

Anything approved by your district's SEAB

PROHIBITED

Contraception Distribution

is not permitted on school grounds

You can teach about condoms, but you can't give them to your students

Abortion

cannot be taught as a method of family planning and abortion referrals cannot be made on school grounds



As a SEAB member, what is expected of me?

Membership Composition



SEABs must contain the following members -

- Parents of students
- Students
- Educators
- Local clergy
- Community health professionals

Review & Approve Content



- All sexual education content must be approved by the district's Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB)
- As a member, this is your opportunity to recommend content and give input on proposed changes!

Individual Responsibilities



- Each SEAB has its own rules regarding frequency, length, and timing of meetings, term of service, and anticipated time requirement
- Talk to your SEAB's Sex Education Supervisor and chairs for specific information



What is the formal process for approving content?

SEAB-recommended curricula, materials, and teaching methods used for HIV or sex education offered by a school district must go through the formal approval process:

The purpose of the hearings is to inform the public of the progress of the SEAB and to obtain input regarding proposed changes to sex education curriculum.

2 Public Hearings



School Board Approval



As a member, it is your responsibility to attend hearings and advocate for proposed changes



How can I be an effective SEAB member?

Questions about anything in this guide? Contact us at info@moash.org



Be sure your SEAB approves evidence-based content



Advocate for inclusive content including LGBTQ+ identities and sexual violence



Survey community youth to determine content desires and needs



Establish a positive relationship with your district's school board

