A Health Educator's Guide to Sex Education in Michigan K-12 Schools

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

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

Sex ed looks different in every school district in Michigan. It is decided at the district level, not state level.

What are my requirements as a health educator in Michigan?

Communicable diseases

- You are required to teach age-appropriate material regarding how diseases like HIV are spread and how to prevent spreading

Get Content Approved

- All materials and methods for sex education must be reviewed and recommended by a district's Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) and approved by the local school board before you can teach it

Training is required for this! Contact your school health coordinator

If there is something you want to teach, share it with your SEAB!

You can join your SEAB!

What can I teach in my sex education classes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED</th>
<th>ALLOWED</th>
<th>PROHIBITED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Abstinence as the only 100% effective method of preventing STIs and pregnancy</td>
<td>Anything recommended by your district’s SEAB and approved by the Board of Education</td>
<td>Contraception Distribution is not permitted on school grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Relationships what they look like and how to recognize signs of abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abortion cannot be taught as a method of family planning and abortion referrals cannot be made on school grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refusal Skills saying no to sex and not pressuring someone into unwanted touching or sexual activity</td>
<td></td>
<td>You can teach about condoms, but you can't give them to your students</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Laws regarding sexuality, age of consent, and teen parenting</td>
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</table>

SEABs must contain the following members -
- Parents of students
- Students
- Educators
- Local clergy
- Community health professionals
What does a sex education advisory board (SEAB)* do?

- Establishes sex education program goals and objectives
- Reviews and recommends program materials
- Evaluates, measures, and reports effectiveness of program

How is SEAB-recommended sex education content approved?

Have content recommendations? Submit them to your district’s SEAB for review!

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:

2 Public Hearings + School Board Approval

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. This is an opportunity for you to show support or give input on the proposed changes!

What can I do as a health educator to ensure I am following best practices?

- Receive adequate training in sex education, as well as facilitating challenging discussions
- Learn how to have inclusive and affirming discussions and how to promote a safe and welcoming classroom environment
- Establish a positive relationship with members on your district’s SEAB and seek review of sex education content often

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

*SEABs can be called different things in different districts, so be aware of that when looking for a SEAB in your district. If your district doesn’t have one, you can start one!

For more information on Michigan’s sex education guidelines and requirements, visit: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/ Websites/mde/Food-and-Nutrition-Programs/School-Health-and-Safety/HIV/Summary_of_Legal_Obligations_and_Best_Practices -

** according to the National Association of Head Teachers