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

**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 sexual education content, other than communicable disease information, must be approved by the district's Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) before you can teach it.

**Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB)**
- SEABs must contain the following members:
  - Parents of students
  - Students
  - Educators
  - Local clergy
  - Community health professionals

**What can I teach in my sex education classes?**

- **REQUIRED**
  - Discuss Abstinence as the only 100% effective method of preventing STIs and pregnancy
  - Healthy Relationships what they look like and how to recognize signs of abuse

- **ALLOWED**
  - Refusal Skills saying no to sex and not pressuring someone into unwanted touching or sexual activity
  - State Laws regarding sexuality, age of consent, and teen parenting

- **PROHIBITED**
  - Contraception Distribution is not permitted on school grounds
  - Abortion cannot be taught as a method of family planning and abortion referrals cannot be made on school grounds

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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 program effectiveness

*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!

How does a SEAB approve sex education 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:

1. Have content recommendations? Submit them to your district's SEAB for review!
2. 2 Public Hearings
3. 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

For more information on Michigan's sex education guidelines and requirements, visit: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Michigans_Sex_Education_Laws_Summary_3093019_7.pdf

** according to the National Association of Head Teachers