

# A Parent'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 get involved in public schools in Michigan



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



## What are MI's requirements for my child's sex education?

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

### Communicable diseases



Every public school must teach students age-appropriate material regarding -

- How diseases like HIV are spread
- How to prevent the spread of these diseases

### Sex education is optional



- Sex education, other than communicable disease education, is optional
- Sex education curriculum must be approved by a sex education advisory board (SEAB)



### Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB)



SEABs must contain the following members -

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

### Parental Involvement



Parents and/or legal guardians must be notified in advance of the following -

- Sex education content
- Their right to review the materials and observe instruction
- Their right to exclude their child from instruction



## If offered, what can be taught in my child's sex education classes?

### 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



### PROHIBITED

#### Contraception Distribution

is not permitted on school grounds

Teachers can teach about condoms, but can't give them to their students

#### Abortion

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



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

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

Establishes sex education program goals and objectives



Reviews and recommends program materials



Evaluates, measures, and reports effectiveness of program



## How does a SEAB approve sex education content?

Questions about anything in this guide? Contact us at [info@moash.org](mailto:info@moash.org)



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. This is an opportunity for parents or others in the district to give input about the proposed changes.

2 Public Hearings



School Board Approval



## How can I play a role in my child's school-based sex education?

>93%  
of parents place high importance on sex education in schools \*\*

Apply to be on the SEAB and actively participate in proposing changes to sex education



Talk to community members about the SEAB and importance of comprehensive sex education



Talk to your child about becoming a youth SEAB member

