An overview of how sex education content is determined and approved and how you can get involved in public schools in Michigan.

**A Parent'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.

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

- **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

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**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

- **Healthy Relationships**
  - what they look like and how to recognize signs of abuse

- **State Laws**
  - regarding sexuality, age of consent, and teen parenting

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**ALLOWED**

- **Refusal Skills**
  - like saying no to sex and not pressuring someone into unwanted touching or sexual activity

**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

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**Anything approved by your district's SEAB**
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 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:

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 parents or others in the district to give input about the proposed changes.

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

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

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

For more information on Michigan's sex education guidelines and requirements, visit:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Michigans_Sex_Education_Laws_Summary_303019_7.pdf

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. You can start one if your district doesn't have one!

** (Kantor et al., 2017)