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

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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

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

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

*SEABs can be called different things in different districts

What are the guidelines for sex education in Michigan?

**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 like saying no to sex and not pressuring someone into unwanted touching or sexual activity
- State Laws regarding sexuality, age of consent, and teen parenting
- Anything approved by your district's SEAB

**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

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

1. **2 Public Hearings**
2. **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.

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

**How can I be an effective SEAB member?**

- 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

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