

ARKANSAS STATE PROFILE

Prepared with an interest in protecting the health and innocence of children, this profile provides an overview of sex education in Arkansas, including:

- I. Chart showing [legal requirements for sex education](#) in this state
- II. [Profile of federal funding](#) the state has been awarded for sex education
- III. Chart of federally funded [programs/curricula used in state schools](#)
- IV. Overview of the state's [sex education legislation/guidelines](#)
- V. List of [how parental rights are being undermined](#) in this state
- VI. [News articles](#) regarding sex education in the state
- VII. [Opt-out form](#) to protect your child from comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)
- VIII. Suggestions for how you can [help protect child health and stop CSE](#)
- IX. [Resources](#) for up-to-date information about sex education in this state
- X. Contact information to [connect with others](#) who are concerned about this issue.



I. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEX EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			6-18-703.a.1(B.IV.3)
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			6-18-703.a.1(B.IV.3), 6-18-703.d.1, 6-18-703.d.3
Include HIV Education	X			6-18-703.d.2
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include safety against sexual abuse			X	
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents must be notified	X			6-18-703.c.3
Parent Involvement			X	
Access to review curriculum			X	
Opt-In	X			6-18-703a.1(A.I), 6-18-703a.1(A.II)
Opt-Out Option			X	
Other: Arkansas allows schools to have school based clinics which include: parental consent to condom distribution, sex education, parent opt in/notification, statistical student information, unfunded abortion referrals and unfunded contraception distribution. Code 6-18-703				

*See each state's definition of "medically accurate."

**While requirement may say "abstinence-based" or to "stress abstinence" as the standard, many CSE programs only mention abstinence in passing; they don't establish abstinence as the expected standard and fail to emphasize abstinence as the only sure way to protect against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

Note: This state profile has been prepared by Family Watch International and the Protect Child Health Coalition. While the information provided is as accurate as possible and is updated annually, **check the Resources listed below for any updates.** Also, **please alert us** if you are aware of any changes, proposed legislation or issues regarding CSE that may be occurring in your state by completing the contact form at StopCSE.org/Arkansas or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. ARKANSAS SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Arkansas

WARNING: While grant requirements may state that curricula/programs are to be “evidence based” or “medically accurate” in order to receive funding, research shows that, often, funds go to curricula/programs that are ineffective (See SexEdReport.org). In addition, content analyses show that many programs (Link to harmful CSE elements chart) normalize teen sex, encourage sexual pleasure-seeking, condone early sexual debut and promote high-risk sexual behaviors. **It is important to look at the actual content of every curricula rather than relying on labels assigned to them.**

DASH—Division of Adolescent and School Health, a division of the Centers for Disease Prevention (CDC), works with community partners to provide training and resource development for so-called “HIV, STD, and pregnancy prevention” programs in school-based and community settings.

- Arkansas received DASH funds totaling \$415,000 in fiscal year 2016.

PREP—The Personal Responsibility Education Programs, under the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), provides grants for sex education programs that are sometimes called “abstinence plus” programs and that focus on “both abstinence and contraception.”

- Arkansas received PREP funds totaling \$451,596 in fiscal year 2017.

SRAE—Sexual Risk Avoidance Education grants go to curricula/programs that emphasize risk avoidance and teach youth to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity and other risky behaviors. Note: See warning above.

- Arkansas received NO SRAE program funds in 2016.

Title V—The TITLE V State Abstinence Education Grant Program funds abstinence education and mentoring to promote abstinence. However, note that at least one Title V program promotes promiscuity as healthy and normal. As noted above, **it is important to look at the actual content of the curricula.**

- Arkansas received a Title V award totaling \$791,939 in fiscal year 2017.

TPP—The **Teen Pregnancy Prevention** program, through the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), funds comprehensive sex education programs for children aged 10 to 19. Note: Research shows that most TPP programs are ineffective at reducing pregnancy rates and some even increase risk. (See SexEdReport.org)

- Arkansas received NO TPP funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ARKANSAS

Note: Programs in **red** text have been analyzed and found to contain harmful content for children. Programs not in red may or may not have harmful content.

See examples exposing harmful content in various CSE curricula and materials at www.stopcse.org/cse-materials-index/. For example, the analysis of [Making a Difference](#), shows CSE programs sexualize children and encourage promiscuity and risky sexual behavior, typically without providing medically accurate information about the long-term risks associated with early sexual debut and experimentation.

Federally Funded Sex Education Programs / Curricula in Arkansas

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
DASH	Arkansas Health Education Framework	Arkansas Department of Education
DASH	National Sexuality Education Standards	Arkansas Department of Education
TPPP	N/A	N/A
PREP	A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States	
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	PREP State-Grant Program Arkansas Department of Health
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	PREP State-Grant Program Arkansas Department of Health
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	Arkansas Department of Health

See stopcse.org/cse-materials-index/ for a menu of examples and analyses exposing the harmful elements to children of specific curricula and other CSE materials.



IV. OVERVIEW OF ARKANSAS SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

The following laws and guidelines apply to sex education and how sex education is taught in Arkansas.

According to Arkansas Title 6 (updated 2018)

Sexual/Human Reproductive Education is not required but optional. Nevertheless, requirements to follow are mentioned below if schools choose to teach it.

6-18-703ⁱⁱ

- No school-based health clinic may be established in a public school until requested by resolution by the school district board of directors
- If a school-based clinic is established:
 - no child shall receive school-based health clinic services without parental consent.
 - Parental consent to contraceptive services and condom distribution shall be specific, in writing, and maintained in the student's health records.
 - All school-based clinics shall maintain accurate records of the distributing and prescribing of contraceptives and condoms.
 - The number of pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among students in the schools with school-based clinics shall be transmitted annually to the school district board of directors.
 - the board of directors shall retain absolute control over the operations and programs offered by the clinic.
 - Department of Health employee working in the clinic shall be subject to the supervision and control of the school district board of directors.
 - No state funds shall be used for the purchase or dispensing of contraceptives or abortifacients in public schools.
 - The school district board of directors of every school district that associates itself with distributing, recommending, or prescribing condoms or contraceptives shall adopt a resolution acknowledging that there are risks associated with teen sexual activities.
- Schools that offer sex education in school-based health clinics shall include:
 - instruction in sexual abstinence, and no funds shall be utilized for abortion referral.
 - It is hereby recognized that sexual activity by students places our youths at increased risk of pregnancy and the contraction of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases, and it is the policy of the State of Arkansas to discourage such sexual activity.
 - It is further required that every public school and public health department sex education and acquired immune deficiency syndrome prevention program shall emphasize premarital abstinence as the only sure means of avoiding pregnancy and the sexual contraction of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The Health Education Framework for Arkansas Department of Education 2011ⁱⁱⁱ includes:

- Describing methods for pregnancy prevention, including abstinence
- Comparing and contrasting abstinence to other forms of contraception to reduce the risks of unintended pregnancy
- Compare and contrast communicable and non-communicable diseases (e.g., STIs, HIV/AIDS, bacterial/viral infections, heredity, lifestyle, environment):
 - Symptoms
 - causes
 - risk factors
- Reviewing methods of HIV/STI transmission and contraction
- Analyze the importance of sexual abstinence and other forms of contraception in teen relationships
- Examine short-term and long-term responsibilities and consequences of sexual behaviors
- Identify physical, emotional, and legal consequences of abusive and risky situations (e.g., bullying, cyber-bullying, date rape, DUI, Internet dangers, sexual abuse)

Age of Majority =

Based on Arkansas law, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a minor, while those 18 years old and older are considered adults.^{iv}

Age of Consent =

In Arkansas, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16.^v



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN ARKANSAS

Warning! Most CSE programs put parental rights at risk by either encouraging or requiring that parents not be notified and/or by instructing children how to access such things as abortion, contraception and other so-called health services **without parental notification or consent**.

It is particularly dangerous to encourage students in this way, particularly considering the fact the laws often support what is being taught in CSE programs. For example:

Without notifying or receiving consent from their parents, minor children in Arkansas may consent to and receive:

- All contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services*
- All prenatal care services
- All adoption services
- All abortion services

*Health care practitioners MAY, but are not required to, inform parents when minors seek STI services.



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM ARKANSAS

September 27, 2017 - “Sex-ed needed”

<https://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/sex-ed-needed/Content?oid=9950383>

September 25, 2017 – “85% of schools in Arkansas tell kids to say no to sex”

<http://www.texarkanagazette.com/news/arkansas/story/2017/sep/25/85-schools-arkansas-tell-kids-say-no-sex/692771/>

May 10, 2017 - Arkansas Among the Worst in Teen Pregnancy; Student Pushes for Required Sex Ed Classes in Schools

<https://www.nwahomepage.com/news/fox-24/arkansas-among-the-worst-in-teen-pregnancy-student-pushes-for-required-sex-ed-classes-in-schools/711317542>



VII. OPT-OUT FORM

By signing a parental non-consent form, also known as an opt-out form, parents can protect their children from being subjected to harmful CSE programs. Download and print the provided form and modify it as needed (see included instructions). Sign it and take it to your child’s school, and ask that it be put on file as part of your child’s permanent record and that all teachers and instructors be notified.

A sample opt-out form, provided by Liberty Counsel, along with instructions for use, can be found at: stopcse.org/Arkansas



VIII. GET INVOLVED TO STOP CSE

You can get involved to stop CSE and protect the health and innocence of children across the U.S. and in countries around the world:

1. Sign the Stop CSE petition at stopcse.org/petition/
2. Watch the “War Against Children” documentary and share this link to the documentary with your friends and neighbors at stopcse.org/film/
3. Connect with others in your state who are working to Stop CSE in your schools to see how you can get involved. Go to stopcse.org/arkansas to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Arkansas School based clinics and Sexual Education guidelines code 6-18-703 - https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=ce3dcbbba-1fc6-426c-a937-55a4f3052ef8&nodeid=AAGAACAAJAAIAAE&nodepath=%2FROOT%2FAAG%2FAAGAAC%2FAAGAACAAJ%2FAAGAACAAJAAI%2FAAGAACAAJAAIAAE&title=6-18-703.+School-based+health+clinics.&config=00JAA2ZjZiM2VhNS0wNTVILTQ3NzUtYjQzYy0yYWZmODJiODRmMDYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2fXiYCnsel0pllqgpYkw9PK&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A4WVD-8B90-R03K-N3SK-00008-00&eomp=-_3vkkk&prid=1f110010-4da8-44e3-b687-5641a2013f36
- Arkansas Title 6 Education <https://advance.lexis.com/container?config=00JAA3ZTU0NTIzYy0zZDEyLTRhYmQtYmRmMS1iMWlxNDgxYWMxZTQKAFBvZENhdGFsb2cubRW4ifTiwi5vLw6cl1uX&crd=99c5971f-aafd-4386-88c5-5e1aafab3b08>
- Arkansas Department of Education Health Education Framework - <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/physical-education-and-health>
- Arkansas Legislation - <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us>
- U.S. Legislation websites by state - <https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Resource TPPP page - <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/current-grantees/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Resource other state funding - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource-library/search/?area%5B1981%5D=1981&type%5B5168%5D=5168&sort=recent&ajax=1>
- TPPP Funding - <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/about/index.html>
- Abstinence Education Grant Program Medical Accuracy Guide - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/medical_accuracy_aegp.pdf

Additional Resources:

- DOCUMENTARY: *The War on Children: The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Agenda* (FWI Documentary) – <https://stopcse.org>
- STUDY: Re-Examining the Evidence: School-based Comprehensive Sex Education in the United States (IRE Study) – www.sexedreport.org
- REPORT: An Evidence-Based Response to a Critique of Abstinence Education (IRE Report) - https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/IRE_Response_To_Santelli_Article_4-20-18.pdf



X. CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Let us put you in contact with other people and organizations who are actively involved in helping to protect the health and innocence of children.

Fill out the contact form on www.stopcse.org/arkansas or email us your name, city, state, school district, and any questions or concerns you may have and we will put you in contact with people from your state or one of our national representatives.

Email Address: StopCSE@familywatch.org

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ⁱ <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/about/index.html>

ⁱⁱ Code 6-18-703 School based health clinic and sexual education

https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crid=ce3dcbbba-1fc6-426c-a937-55a4f3052ef8&nodeid=AAGAACAAJAAIAAE&nodepath=%2FROOT%2FAAG%2FAAGAAC%2FAAGAACAAJ%2FAAGAACAAJAAI%2FAAGAACAAJAAIAAE&title=6-18-703.+School-based+health+clinics.&config=00JAA2ZjZiM2VhNS0wNTVILTQ3NzUtYjQzYy0yYWZmODJiODRmMDYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2fXiYCnsel0pllgppYkw9PK&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A4WVD-8B90-R03K-N3SK-00008-00&ecomp=-_3vkkk&prid=1f110010-4da8-44e3-b687-5641a2013f36

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/physical-education-and-health>

^{iv} <http://statelaws.findlaw.com/family-laws/legal-ages.html>

^v <https://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/age-of-consent-by-state.html?intakeredesigned=1>