

# ALABAMA STATE PROFILE

Prepared with an interest in protecting the health and innocence of children, this profile provides an overview of sex education in Alabama, 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 ALABAMA

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	Code
Sex Education Required		X		16-6B-2
Sex Education Optional	X			16-1-16
<b>If Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			16-40A-2 (c.3)
Be Age Appropriate	X			16-40A-2 (b)
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased		X		
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			16-40A-2 (a.1,2)
Include HIV Education	X			16-40A-2 (c.3)
Be Inclusive of LGBTQ Students		X		16-40A-2(c.8), 16-1-28
Include Safeguards Against Sexual Abuse	X			16-40-9, 16-40A-2 (c.5)
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education</b>				
Parents Must be Notified			X	
Parents Must Opt-In		X		
Parents Can Opt-Out	X			

\*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/Alabama](http://StopCSE.org/Alabama) or by emailing [StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org](mailto:StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org).



## II. ALABAMA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Alabama

***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](http://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.

- Alabama received DASH funds totaling \$60,000 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.”

- Alabama received PREP funds totaling \$719,919 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.

- Alabama 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.**

- Alabama received a Title V award totaling \$1,304,186 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](http://SexEdReport.org))

- Alabama received NO TPP funding for between year 2015-2019.<sup>i</sup>

Note: Alabama received \$867,552 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in fiscal year 2010.



### III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ALABAMA

**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/](http://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 Alabama

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
DASH		AL Department of Health
PREP	A Portrait of Sexuality Education in the States	AL Department of Public Health
PREP	Love Notes	Tuscaloosa County Health Department (TCHD)
PREP	Love Notes 2.1	Decatur Youth Services
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	Decatur Youth Services
PREP	Seventeen Days	TCHD; Decatur Youth Services
PREP	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	AL Department of Public Health
PREP	Money Habitudes	AL Department of Public Health
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b> for Youth in Out-of-Home Care	TCHD
TITLE V	<b>Making a Difference!</b>	AL Department of Public Health
TITLE V	Relationship Smarts Plus (RS+)	AL Department of Public Health

See [www.stopcse.org/cse-materials-index/](http://www.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 ALABAMA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Alabama Title 16-40A-2, 16-1-16, 16-1-20.5, 16-1-28<sup>ii</sup> (ACT 1992)

- No public funds or public facilities are to be used to promote lifestyle or activities prohibited by sodomy and sexual misconduct laws.
- **Any program or curriculum in the public schools in Alabama that includes sex education or the human reproductive process shall, as a minimum, include and emphasize the following:**
  - **Abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only completely effective protection** against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.
  - **Abstinence from sexual intercourse outside of lawful marriage is the expected social standard** for unmarried school-age persons.
- Course materials and instruction that relate to sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should be age-appropriate.
- Course materials and instruction that relate to sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should include all of the following elements:
  - An **emphasis on sexual abstinence** as the only completely reliable method of avoiding unwanted teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
  - An **emphasis on the importance of self-control and ethical conduct** pertaining to sexual behavior.
  - **Statistics based on the latest medical information that indicate the degree of reliability and unreliability of various forms of contraception**, while also emphasizing the increase in protection against pregnancy and protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS infection, which is afforded by the use of various contraceptive measures.
  - Information concerning the laws relating to the financial responsibilities associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing.
  - Information concerning the laws prohibiting sexual abuse, the need to report such abuse, and the legal options available to victims of sexual abuse.
  - Information on how to cope with and rebuff unwanted physical and verbal sexual exploitation by other persons.
  - Psychologically sound methods of resisting unwanted peer pressure.
  - An emphasis, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that **homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense** under the laws of the state.
  - Comprehensive instruction in parenting skills and responsibilities, including the responsibility to pay child support by non-custodial parents, the penalties for non-

payment of child support, and the legal and ethical responsibilities of child care and child rearing

- A **local textbook committee** or committees shall be appointed by each separate local board of education. The number, size, and composition, which shall include parents, of the committee or committees shall be determined by each local board of education.
  - In order to qualify as a member of the committee
    - The member has no interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract that may be made under this article for the purchase of textbooks
    - The member has no interest as author, as associate author, as publisher, or as a representative of the author or publisher of any textbooks.
    - The member has no pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in the business or profits of any person, firm, or corporation engaged in manufacturing, publishing, or selling textbooks.
  - Publishers shall furnish samples of all state-adopted textbooks to each local board of education for evaluation by the local textbook committee.
- A public local board of education may not discriminate against students or parents on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression.
- Students may express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions.

The Alabama State Board of Education believes that **few health risk behaviors have more damaging long-term effects on students than** the use of illegal drugs, **premarital sexual activity**, negligent parenting, and short-term emotional issues that may lead to consideration of suicide. Therefore, Code of Alabama (1975) laws and Alabama State Board of Education resolutions and regulations relative to these destructive behaviors and others are included in the appendices of this document. The Alabama State Board of Education strongly encourages the embodiment of these laws, resolutions, and regulations in all age- and content-appropriate contexts throughout this course of study.<sup>iii</sup>

#### **Age of Majority =**

Based on Alabama law, anyone under the age of 19 is considered a minor, while those 19 years old and older are considered adults.<sup>iv</sup>

#### **Age of Consent =**

In Alabama, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16.<sup>v</sup>



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN ALABAMA

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 Alabama may consent to and receive:

- All contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services
- Prenatal care services

In Alabama, parental consent is required for: Abortion services.



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM ALABAMA

February 25, 2018, “Legislative update: Bills sponsored by local lawmakers move forward,” *Opelika-Auburn News*,

[https://www.oanow.com/news/lee\\_county/legislative-update-bills-sponsored-by-local-lawmakers-move-forward/article\\_52f53b18-d078-5f89-9dc9-0ceb65d0c746.html](https://www.oanow.com/news/lee_county/legislative-update-bills-sponsored-by-local-lawmakers-move-forward/article_52f53b18-d078-5f89-9dc9-0ceb65d0c746.html)

The article above refers to the reading of SB269 and states: “The bill would alter the wording in the Code of Alabama that lays out the guidelines for sex ed in the state’s public schools. It would strike a paragraph that says curriculum should include ‘an emphasis, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense under the laws of the state.’”

February 18, 2018 - “Panel moves to strike anti-gay phrase in Alabama sex ed law”

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-bc-us--sex-education-alabama-20180214-story.html#>

August 14, 2017 - “Alabama parents want schools to teach sex ed, STD awareness, survey shows”

[http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/08/parents\\_want\\_their\\_children\\_to.html](http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/08/parents_want_their_children_to.html)

**May 6, 2017 - “Sex-education books upset parents”**

[http://www.encyclopedia.com/news/local\\_news/sex-education-books-upset-parents/article\\_14d7a07e-31f3-11e7-8288-7f2b9e5525d9.html](http://www.encyclopedia.com/news/local_news/sex-education-books-upset-parents/article_14d7a07e-31f3-11e7-8288-7f2b9e5525d9.html)

**April 28, 2017 - ‘Let’s talk about sex’: Sex education reform bill moving forward in Alabama**

<http://local15tv.com/news/local/lets-talk-about-sex-sex-education-reform-bill-moving-forward-in-alabama>



## **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/alabama](http://stopcse.org/alabama)



## **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/](http://stopcse.org/petition/)
2. Watch the “War Against Children” documentary and share this link to the documentary with your friends and neighbors [stopcse.org/film/](http://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/alabama](http://stopcse.org/alabama) and fill out the form there to connect.



## IX. RESOURCES

- Alabama Legislative page - <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/default.aspx>
- Title 16 education - <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/codeofalabama/1975/coatoc.htm>
- 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](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](http://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](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/alabama](http://www.stopcse.org/alabama) 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](mailto:StopCSE@familywatch.org)

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

<sup>ii</sup> <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/codeofalabama/1975/coatoc.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/COS/HEALTH%202009%20---FINAL.pdf>

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

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