

# CONNECTICUT STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			10-16c, 10-16d
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**			X	
Include HIV Education			X	
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse			X	
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents Must be Notified			X	
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			10-16e
<b>OTHER</b>				
Abortion: Curriculum guides shall <b>not</b> include information pertaining to abortion as an alternative to family planning				10-16c

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



## II. CONNECTICUT SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Connecticut

**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.

- Connecticut 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.”

- Connecticut received PREP funds totaling \$544,655 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.

- Connecticut 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.**

- Connecticut received NO Title V award 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](#))

- Connecticut received \$999,999<sup>i</sup> in funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>ii</sup>



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

**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 [stopcse.org/cse-materials-index/](http://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 Connecticut

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
DASH	National Sexuality Education Standard	Connecticut State Department of Education
DASH	Connecticut Department of Education Sexual Health Education Guidelines	Connecticut State Department of Education
TPPP	Making a Difference!	City of Hartford, Department of Health and Human Services
TPPP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services
TPPP	Love Notes	City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services
TPPP	Get Real	City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	Connecticut State Department of Public Health, The State Department of Children & Families, GBAPP, Inc.
PREP	Love Notes	Connecticut State Department of Public Health, The State Department of Children & Families
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	Connecticut State Department of Public Health, GBAPP, Inc.
PREP	Reducing the Risk	Connecticut State Department of Public Health, CREC schools

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

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

According to Title 10<sup>iii</sup> (site updated 2017)

- Sec. 10-16c<sup>iv</sup> (State board to develop family life education curriculum guides.) The State Board of Education shall develop curriculum guides to aid local and regional boards of education in developing family life education programs within the public schools. The curriculum guides shall include, but not be limited to, information on developing a curriculum including family planning, human sexuality, parenting, nutrition and the emotional, physical, psychological, hygienic, economic and social aspects of family life, provided the curriculum guides shall not include information pertaining to abortion as an alternative to family planning.
- Sec. 10-16d. Family life education programs not mandatory. Nothing in sections 10-16c to 10-16f, inclusive, shall be construed to require any local or regional board of education to develop or institute such family life education programs.
- Sec. 10-16e. No student shall be required by any local or regional board of education to participate in any such family life program which may be offered within such public schools. A written notification to the local or regional board by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.
- Each local and regional board of education shall offer ongoing and systematic instruction on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as taught by legally qualified teachers. The content of the instruction shall be within the discretion of the local or regional board of education. Each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy concerning the exemption of pupils from such instruction upon written request of the parent or guardian.
- There is a school based health center<sup>v</sup>

### **Age of Majority =**

Based on Connecticut law, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a minor, while those 18 years old and older are considered adults.<sup>vi</sup>

### **Age of Consent =**

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



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN CONNECTICUT

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 Connecticut may consent to and receive:

- Some contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services
- Abortion services



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM CONNECTICUT

**April 8, 2018 – “Stamford students take lead in assault education”**

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/Stamford-students-take-lead-in-sexual-assault-12816096.php>

**June 19, 2017- “Campus Conversations / Catholic campuses navigate sexual health, wellness”**

<http://www.fairfieldcitizenonline.com/news/article/Campus-Conversations-Catholic-campuses-navigate-11223196.php>

**May 27, 2015 - “The case for starting sex education in kindergarten”**

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/spring-fever>



## 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: [www.stopcse.org/connecticut](http://www.stopcse.org/connecticut)



## 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 at [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 [www.stopcse.org/connecticut](http://www.stopcse.org/connecticut) to connect.



## IX. RESOURCES

- Title 10 Education - [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title\\_10.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title_10.htm)
- Family Planning under Title 10 - [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_164.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_164.htm)
- School Based health Center - <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Health-Education/Comprehensive-Health-Services-and-Sexual-Health-Services>
- Comprehensive School Health Education - <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Health-Education/Comprehensive-School-Health-Education>
- Support materials for Sexual Education - [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/fundedpartners/1308/pdf/eshe\\_rationale.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/fundedpartners/1308/pdf/eshe_rationale.pdf)
- Connecticut Title 10 Education and Culture - [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title\\_10.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title_10.htm)
- Connecticut Legislation - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/>
- 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/connecticut](http://www.stopcse.org/connecticut) 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)

Rev. Sep. 2018

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

<sup>iii</sup> Title 10 Education [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title\\_10.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/title_10.htm)

<sup>iv</sup> Family Life Education [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_164.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_164.htm)

<sup>v</sup> School based Health Center <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Health-Education/Comprehensive-Health-Services-and-Sexual-Health-Services>

<sup>vi</sup> Age of Majority <http://statelaws.findlaw.com/family-laws/legal-ages.html>

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