

# FLORIDA STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			1003.42(2.n), 1003.46
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate	X			1003.46(1, 2.d)
Be Evidence-based	X			1003.46(1)
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			1003.42(2.n), 1003.46(2.a, b)
(May) Include HIV Education	X			1003.46(1)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		1003.42(2.a)
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			1003.42(2.n)
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents Must be Notified			X	
Parent Involvement	X			Code 1002.23
Access to Review Curriculum			X	
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			1003.42(3), 1002.20(3.d)
Abortion References – Code 390.01114 Parental Notice of Abortion Act				

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



## II. FLORIDA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Florida

**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.

- Florida received DASH funds totaling \$2,168,825 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.”

- Florida received NO PREP funds 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.

- Florida received SRAE totaling \$1,326,057 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.**

- Florida received a Title V award totaling \$4,085,985 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))

- Florida received \$2,695,553<sup>i</sup> in funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>ii</sup>



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

**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 Florida

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
TPPP	Love Notes	OIC of South Florida, Trinity Church, Inc.
TPPP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	OIC of South Florida, Trinity Church, Inc.
TPPP	<b>Reducing the Risk</b>	OIC of South Florida, Trinity Church, Inc.
TPPP	Plan Be__ Program	Trinity Church, Inc.
PREP	Speaking to the Promise and Resilience in Kids (S.P.A.R.K.)	Children’s Home Society of Florida
PREP	<b>Get Real</b>	Heartland Rural Health Network, Inc.
PREP	<b>iCuidate!</b>	Planned Parenthood
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	Planned Parenthood
PREP	Relationship Smarts PLUS	Trinity Church, Inc.
PREP	Love Notes	Trinity Church, Inc.
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	Trinity Church, Inc.
PREP	<b>Reducing the Risk</b>	Trinity Church, Inc., The Unity Family Community Center
PREP	Plan Be__ Program	Trinity Church, Inc.
TITLE V	Choosing the Best, Heritage Keepers, <b>Making a Difference!</b> , Promoting Health Among Teens! (PHAT), Real Essentials	
SRAE	Real Essentials	Abstinence Between Strong Teens International, Inc.
SRAE	Love Notes	OIC of Broward DBA OIC of South Florida, Trinity Church, Inc.
SRAE	Relationship Smarts PLUS	OIC of Broward DBA OIC of South Florida, Trinity Church, Inc.

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 FLORIDA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Florida Title XLVIII K-20 Education Code (2017 Florida Statutes)<sup>iii</sup> (up to date 2018)

### Parent Involvement/rights

- Parents, students, families, educational institutions, and communities are collaborative partners in education, and each plays an important role in the success of individual students.
- A public school student whose parent makes written request to the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.42
- *Contraceptive services to public school students.*—In accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.062(7), students may not be referred to or offered contraceptive services at school facilities without the parent’s consent.

### Sexual Education

#### 1003.42<sup>iv</sup>

- Comprehensive health education that addresses family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; The health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include components of teen dating violence and abuse

#### 1003.46 Health education; instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome<sup>v</sup>

- Each district school board may provide instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education as a specific area of health education. Such instruction may include, but is not limited to, the known modes of transmission, signs and symptoms, risk factors associated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and means used to control the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The instruction shall be appropriate for the grade and age of the student and shall reflect current theory, knowledge, and practice regarding acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its prevention.
- Throughout instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, or health education, when such instruction and course material contains instruction in human sexuality, a school shall:
- Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.
- Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.
- Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.
- Provide instruction and material that is appropriate for the grade and age of the student.

### Florida Department of Education Provides<sup>vi</sup>

- Abstinence-Based (Plus): emphasizes the benefits of abstinence; includes information about non-coital sexual behavior, contraception, and disease prevention methods; also referred to as abstinence-plus or abstinence-centered.

- Abstinence-Only: emphasizes abstinence from all sexual behaviors; may not include information regarding contraception, except in terms of failure rates, or disease prevention methods.
- Abstinence-Only Until Marriage: emphasizes abstinence from all sexual behaviors outside of marriage; may not include any information about contraception, except in terms of failure rates, or disease prevention methods; typically presents marriage as the only morally correct context for all sexual activity.
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education: K-12 sexuality education programs view sexuality education as a lifelong process and address sexual development, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image, gender roles, abstinence, and contraceptive options.

#### Age of Majority =

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

#### Age of Consent =

In Florida, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 18.<sup>viii</sup>



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN FLORIDA

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 Florida may consent to and receive:

- Some contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services
- All prenatal care services

In Florida, minor's parents must be notified of abortion services, but parental consent is not required.



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM FLORIDA

**Sep. 2, 2018 - “Let's talk about sex”** <https://www.fsunews.com/story/life/2018/09/02/lets-talk-sex/1175090002/>

**August 3, 2018 – “South Florida teacher loses license after speaking to students about his sex life:** State records show Carlos Pena shared his personal experience in anal, oral sex”  
<https://www.local10.com/education/south-florida-teacher-loses-license-after-speaking-to-students-about-his-sex-life>

**March 26, 2018 – “Parents, Take Heed: Fake Clinics Are Teaching Sex ‘Education,’ and You Can Help Stop Them”** <https://rewire.news/article/2018/03/26/parents-take-heed-fake-clinics-teaching-sex-education-can-help-stop/>

**July 27, 2017 - “Broward expects to treat twice as many STD patients with expanded free treatment”** <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/health-care/article164061987.html>



## 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/florida](http://stopcse.org/florida)



## 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 [stopcse.org/florida](http://stopcse.org/florida) to connect.



## IX. RESOURCES

- Florida Legislation - <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=222165358&CFTOKEN=913986f255fae211-34F38706-A972-258C-4E3EE4EFB9EEC06E>
- Florida Title 48 Education - [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Index&Title\\_Request=XLVIII#TitleXLVIII](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&Title_Request=XLVIII#TitleXLVIII)
- Comprehensive Health Education under Title 48 - [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)
- Florida Department of Education Health goals - <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/safe-healthy-schools/healthy-schools/sexual-edu/>
- Department of Education info for HIV/STD Prevention, Teen Pregnancy Prevention & Sexual Health Education <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/safe-healthy-schools/healthy-schools/sexual-edu/>  
<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/safe-healthy-schools/healthy-schools/comprehensive-health-edu.stml>
- All 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/florida](http://www.stopcse.org/florida) 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> <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/about/index.html>

<sup>iii</sup> Title XLVIII

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Index&Title\\_Request=XLVIII#TitleXLVIII](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&Title_Request=XLVIII#TitleXLVIII)

<sup>iv</sup> Code 1003.42

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)

<sup>v</sup> Code 1003.46

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.46.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.46.html)

<sup>vi</sup> Florida Department of Education <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7578/urlt/Definitions-of-Sexuality-Programs.pdf>

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

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