

GEORGIA STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required	X			20-2-143(a)
Sex Education Optional				
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate	X			20-2-143(b)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**				20-2-14(a), IDB 160-4-2 (12)
Include HIV Education	X			20-2-143(a, b), IDB 160-4-2 (12)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			SB401, 20-2-143(b)
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents Must be Notified	X			IDB 160-4-2.12
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			20-2-143.d, IDB 160-4-2 (12)
Access to Curriculum				IDB 160-4-2 (12)

*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/georgia or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. GEORGIA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Georgia

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.

- Georgia received DASH funds totaling \$114,994 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.”

- Georgia received PREP funds totaling \$1,623,109 in fiscal year 2016.

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.

- Georgia received \$403,194 in 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.**

- Georgia received a Title V award totaling \$2,782,342 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)

- Georgia received \$2,999,319ⁱ in funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

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 Georgia

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc Quest for Change, Inc.
TPPP	Project AIM	Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc
TPPP	Making a Difference!	Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc Morehouse School of Medicine Quest for Change, Inc.
TPPP	Reducing the Risk	Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc
TPPP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	Augusta Partnership for Children, Inc Morehouse School of Medicine
TPPP	Teen Health Project	Morehouse School of Medicine
TPPP	Seventeen Days	Morehouse School of Medicine
TPPP	Promoting Health Among Teens! Abstinence-Only (PHAT-AO)	Quest for Change, Inc.
TPPP	Draw the Line/Respect the Line , Love Notes	Quest for Change, Inc.
PREP	Making a Difference!	Georgia's state PREP program
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	Georgia's state PREP program
PREP	iCuidate!	Georgia's state PREP program
PREP	Reducing the Risk	Georgia's state PREP program
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective!	Georgia's state PREP program
PREP	Lion's Quest	Future Foundations, Inc.
PREP	Filling the Gaps	Future Foundations, Inc.
PREP	Rights, Respect, Responsibility	Future Foundations, Inc.
TITLE V	Heritage Keepers	GGOPB
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	GGOPB
TITLE V	REAL Essentials	GGOPB
TITLE V	Making a Difference!	GGOPB
TITLE V	Promoting Health Among Teens! Abstinence-Only (PHAT-AO)	GGOPB
SRAE	Making a Difference!	Columbus Wellness Center Outreach & Prevention Project, Inc. (CWCOPP)

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 GEORGIA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Georgia Title 20 Education (2017) (up to date 2018) 20-2-143 (2017)ⁱⁱⁱ

Each local board of education shall:

- prescribe a course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction for such grades and grade levels in the public school system
- supplement and develop the exact approach of content areas of such minimum course of study with such specific curriculum standards. Such standards shall include instruction relating to abstinence from sexual activity as an effective method of prevention of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The State Board of Education shall

- prescribe a minimum course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction which may be included as a part of a course of study in comprehensive health education The course may include
 - instruction concerning human biology, conception, pregnancy, birth, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The course shall include instruction concerning the legal consequences of parenthood, including, without being limited to, the legal obligation of both parents to support a child and legal penalties or restrictions upon failure to support a child, including, without being limited to, the possible suspension or revocation of a parent's driver's license and occupational or professional licenses. A manual setting out the details of such course of study shall be prepared by or approved by the State School Superintendent in cooperation with the Department of Public Health, the State Board of Education, and such expert advisers as they may choose.

Any local board of education which fails to comply with this subsection shall not be eligible to receive any state funding under this article until such minimum course of study or its equivalent has been implemented.

Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom the course of study set forth in this Code section is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not receive such course of study.

According to Georgia DOE Health/Sexual Education is IDB 160-4-2-.12^{iv}

- Disease prevention education:
 - a planned program of instruction that provides information on how to prevent chronic and infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases.
- Sex education/AIDS education:
 - a planned program that shall include instruction relating to abstinence from sexual activity as an effective method of preventing acquired immune deficiency syndrome and the only sure method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
 - This instruction shall emphasize abstinence from sexual activity until marriage and fidelity in marriage as important personal goals.
- Each local board of education shall develop procedures to allow parents and legal guardians to exercise the option of excluding their child from sex education and AIDS prevention

instructional programs. Sex education and AIDS education shall be a part of a comprehensive health program.

- Prior to the parent or legal guardian making a choice to allow his or her child or ward to take the specified unit of instruction, he or she shall be told what instruction is to be provided and have the opportunity to review all instructional materials to be used, print and nonprint.
- Any parent or legal guardian of a child to whom a course of 3 study in sex education is to be taught shall have the right to elect, in writing, that such child not receive such course of study.
- Each local board of education shall establish a committee to review periodically sex/AIDS education instructional materials and make recommendations concerning age/grade level use. Recommendations made by the committee shall be approved by the local board of education before implementation. The committee shall be composed primarily of nonteaching parents who have children enrolled in the local public schools and who represent the diversity of the student body augmented by others such as educators, health professionals and other community representatives. The committee shall also include a male and female student currently attending the 11th or 12th grade in the public schools

Update 2018: According to SB401^v - The law requires annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades K-9 as well as related teacher training.

Age of Majority =

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

Age of Consent =

In Georgia, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16.^{vii}



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN GEORGIA

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 Georgia may consent to and receive:

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

*Health care providers may inform minor's parents, but are not required to do so.

In Georgia, parental notice is required for: Abortion services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM GEORGIA

August 2, 2018 – “Many Georgia school districts tell students: No sex until marriage”

<https://www.macon.com/news/local/education/article215972505.html>

August 2, 2018 – “Boys & Girls Clubs exec tapped as CEO of Georgia adolescent health nonprofit”

<https://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/news/2018/08/02/boys-girls-clubs-exec-tapped-as-ceo-of-georgia.html>

July 30, 2018 – “Sex Ed In Georgia Schools Still Abstinence-Heavy”

<http://www.gpbnews.org/post/sex-ed-georgia-schools-still-abstinence-heavy>

May 13, 2017 - “Savannah-Chatham public schools adopt new sex education curricula”

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2017-05-13/savannah-chatham-public-schools-adopt-new-sex-education-curricula>

May 19, 2017 - “Bibb school board proposes sex ed policy changes”

<https://wgxa.tv/news/local/bibb-school-board-proposes-sex-ed-policy-changes>

May 28, 2017 - “Bibb schools prepare for sex ed update”

<https://www.macon.com/news/local/education/article151431272.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/georgia



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/georgia to connect.
- 4.



IX. RESOURCES

- Georgia Title 20 Health/Sexual Education - <https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=9049c492-8f1d-4237-83b4-4f5d80640140&nodeid=AAUAAEAAIAADAAG&nodepath=%2FROOT%2FAAU%2FAAUAAE%2FAAUAAEAAI%2FAAUAAEAAIAAD%2FAAUAAEAAIAADAAG&title=%C2%A7+20-2-143.+Sex+education+and+AIDS+prevention+instruction%3B+implementation%3B+student+exemption&config=00JAA1MDBIYzczZi1IYjFILtQxMTgtYWE3OS02YTgyOGM2NWJIMDYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2feed0oM9qoQOMCSJFX5qkd&pddocfullpath=%2Fshar ed%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A5NYG-G6C0-004D-82K0-00008-00&ecomp=-3vkkk&prid=0802b85d-0d74-4dd0-9ae6-ff7cb2016036>
- Georgia 2017 Statutes - Title 20 Education <https://advance.lexis.com/container?config=00JAAzZDgzNzU2ZC05MDA0LTRmMDItYjkzMS0xOGY3MjE3OWNIODIKAFBvZENhdGFsb2fclFfJnJ2IC8XZi1AYM4Ne&crd=0802b85d-0d74-4dd0-9ae6-ff7cb2016036>
- Georgia Department of Education Health/Sexual Guidelines - <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-2-.12.pdf#search=comprehensive>
- Georgia Legislation - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx>
- 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/georgia 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 <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/about/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sexual Education Legislation https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&crd=9049c492-8f1d-4237-83b4-4f5d80640140&nodeid=AAUAAEAAIAADAAG&nodepath=%2FROOT%2FAAU%2FAAUAAE%2FAAUAAEAAI%2FAAUAAEAAIAAD%2FAAUAAEAAIAADAAG&title=%2C%27+20-2-143.+Sex+education+and+AIDS+prevention+instruction%3B+implementation%3B+student+exemption&config=00JAA1MDBIYzczZi1YjFILTQxMTgtYWE3OS02YTgyOGM2NWJIMDYKAFBvZENhdGFsb2feed0oM9qoQOMC SJFX5qkd&pddocfullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3AcontentItem%3A5NYG-G6C0-004D-82K0-00008-00&ecomp=-_3vkkk&prid=0802b85d-0d74-4dd0-9ae6-ff7cb2016036

^{iv} <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-2-.12.pdf#search=comprehensive>

^v SB 401 20.2.327 <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20172018/SB/401>

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

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