

IOWA STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		256.11(5,3)
Sex Education Optional	X			256.11 pg.1, 279.50
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*				279.50.2.9.d
Be Age Appropriate	X			256.11(4,5.j.1), 279.50.2
Be Evidence-based	X			256.11(4, 5.j.1), 279.50.2, 9.d
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased	X			279.50.2, 9.d.2
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			279.50. 11
Include HIV Education	X			256.11(5.j.1), 279.50.2
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			256.9 (46)
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents Must be Notified	X			279.50.3
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			256.11(6.a)279.50.5

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



II. IOWA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Iowa

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.

- Iowa received DASH funds totaling \$79,012 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.”

- Iowa 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.

- Iowa 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.**

- Iowa received a Title V award totaling \$469,089 in fiscal year 2017.ⁱ

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)

- Iowa received \$965,988ⁱⁱ in TPP funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN IOWA

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 Iowa

Funding Source	Program or Curriculum	Funding Recipient
TPPP	Get Real	Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
TPPP	Draw the Line/Respect the Line	Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
TPPP	Safer Sex Intervention	Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Iowa Department of Public Health, Marshalltown Community School District, Cerro Gordo County Board of Health, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
PREP	Wise Guys	The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bethany for Children & Families and Women's Health Services of Eastern Iowa, Inc., Cerro Gordo County Board of Health, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
TITLE V	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Iowa Department of Public 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 IOWA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Iowa Code 2018 Title 7^{iv}

256.11^v page 1 #4 Grades 7-8 Health Curriculum shall:

- include age-appropriate and research-based information regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

256.11 Grades 9-12 Health Curriculum page 2

- includes family life; age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development; and prevention and control of disease, including age-appropriate and research-based information regarding sexually transmitted diseases, including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome

A pupil is not required to enroll in health courses if the pupil's parent or guardian files a written statement with the school principal that the course or activity conflicts with the pupil's religious belief.

There are no requirements to teach about abstinence or birth control or any other sexual education.

2016 STATE LAWS ON MEDICAL ACCURACY IN SEX EDUCATION

Code § 279.50 Each school board shall provide age-appropriate and research-based instruction in human growth and development including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, domestic abuse, HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome in grades one through 12. Research-based includes information recognized as medically accurate and objective by leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field.

Age of Majority =

Based on Iowa 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 Iowa, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16. ^{vii}



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN IOWA

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 Iowa may consent to and receive:

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

In Iowa, only parental notice, not parental consent, is not required for:

- Abortion services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM IOWA

May 12, 2018 - “Obligation to Iowa children doesn’t end at birth”

<https://www.thegazette.com/subject/opinion/staff-editorial/obligation-to-iowa-children-doesnt-end-at-birth-20180512>

May 5, 2018 - “Legislature Adjourns; Conservatives Call Agenda “Historic””

<http://www.iowapublicradio.org/post/legislature-adjourns-conservatives-call-agenda-historic#stream/0>

May 1, 2018 - “13 reasons why we need sex education”

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2017/05/02/13-reasons-why-we-need-sex-education/306797001/>



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/iowa



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/iowa to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Iowa legislative Code 2018 Title 7 Education - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=256&year=2018>
- Iowa Department of Education Health Education Overview - <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/content-areas/health-education>
- 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/iowa 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

Rev. Sep. 2018

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource-library/search#?area%5B1981%5D=1981&type%5B5168%5D=5168&sort=recent&ajax=1>

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

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

^{iv} <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=256&year=2018>

^v <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/2018/256.11.pdf>

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

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