

# KENTUCKY STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		158.6453
Sex Education Optional			X	
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based	X			158.6453 (2.a.4)
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased	X			156.410 (1)
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			Senate Bill 71 Chap. 156
Include HIV Education			X	
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		Senate Bill 71 Chap. 156
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			156.095 (7a&b)
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents Must be Modified			X	
Opt-In			X	
Parents Must be Involved in Curriculum	X			156.405 (7)
Opt-Out Option			X	
<b>Other:</b>				
Abortion Reference: A school district shall not operate a family resource center or a youth services center that provides abortion counseling or makes referrals to a health care facility for the purpose of seeking an abortion. 13-156.496 (6)				

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



## II. KENTUCKY SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Kentucky

**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.

- Kentucky received DASH funds totaling \$80,000 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.”

- Kentucky received PREP funds totaling \$648,519 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.

- Kentucky received \$433,996 in 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.**

- Kentucky received a Title V award totaling \$1,119,007 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))

- Kentucky received NO TPP<sup>i</sup> funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>ii</sup>



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

**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 Kentucky

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
PREP	Reducing the Risk	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
TITLE V	Postponing Sexual Involvement	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
TITLE V	Positive Potential	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
TITLE V	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Kentucky Department of Public Health
SRAE	Making a Difference!	Lake Cumberland District Health Department (LCDHD)

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 KENTUCKY SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to SB 71<sup>iii</sup> (April 13, 2018)

If a school council or, if none exists, the principal adopts a curriculum for human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases, instruction shall include but not be limited to the following content:

- (1) Abstinence from sexual activity is the desirable goal for all school-age children;
- (2) Abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
- (3) The best way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and other associated health problems is to establish a permanent mutually faithful monogamous relationship.

According to Kentucky Title 13<sup>iv</sup>

- Sexual Education is not required in Kentucky
- The School Board makes decisions for courses studies, curriculum and materials<sup>v</sup> under the direction of the State Chief school officer<sup>vi</sup> through the process below:
  - The School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council shall be composed of seventeen (17) voting members appointed by the Governor, including:
    - Two (2) parents from recommendations submitted by organizations representing school councils and parents
    - Two (2) teachers from recommendations submitted by organizations representing teachers
    - Two (2) superintendents from recommendations submitted by organizations representing superintendents
    - Two (2) principals from organizations representing school administrators
    - Two (2) local school board members from recommendations submitted by organizations representing school boards
    - Two (2) school district assessment coordinators from recommendations submitted by organizations representing district assessment coordinators
    - Two (2) employers in the state from recommendations submitted by organizations representing business and industry
    - Two (2) university professors with expertise in assessment and measurement
  - One (1) at-large member
  - A school district shall not operate a family resource center or a youth services center that provides abortion counseling or makes referrals to a health care facility for the purpose of seeking an abortion.<sup>vii</sup>

**The Kentucky Department of Education Health Education/Practical Living<sup>viii</sup> that aligns with NHES (National Health Education Systems teaches:**

- Decisions regarding sexuality have short and long term consequences and responsibility
- Kentucky uses the “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” curriculum<sup>ix</sup>

**Age of Majority =**

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

**Age of Consent =**

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



## **V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN KENTUCKY**

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 Kentucky may consent to and receive:

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

\*Health care providers may inform the minor’s parents, but are not required to do so

In Kentucky, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM KENTUCKY

**July 13, 2018 - “Sex ed, terrorism and revenge porn: New Kentucky laws start Saturday”**

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/13/sex-ed-and-revenge-porn-13-new-kentucky-laws-start-saturday/781944002/>

**May 21, 2018 – “Kentucky sex-ed bill flawed”**

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article211615334.html>

**March 27, 2018 – “The Latest: Bill Backs Abstinence Content in Sex Ed Classes”**

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/kentucky/articles/2018-03-27/the-latest-lawmakers-ok-bill-changing-workers-comp-system>

**January 24, 2018 - “Kentucky Bill Proposes That Sex Ed Start in Fourth Grade”**

<http://www.sexedcenter.org/sex-ed-in-the-news-90/>

**January 16, 2018 – “Proposed Kentucky Law: Abstinence Is the “Expected Standard” in Sex Ed”**

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/01/proposed-kentucky-law-abstinence-is-the-expected-standard-in-sex-ed/>



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



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



## IX. RESOURCES

- Kentucky Sexual Education Guidelines - <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statrev/ACTS2018RS/0156.pdf>
- Kentucky Title 13 Education - <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statutes/>
- Department of Education Health and lifestyle guidelines - <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/wholechild/Pages/Health-Education.aspx>
- Kentucky Legislation - <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/>
- 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](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/kentucky](http://www.stopcse.org/kentucky) 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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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 <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statrev/ACTS2018RS/0156.pdf>

iv <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/index.aspx>

v <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/704/003/305.htm>

vi <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/chapter.aspx?id=37825>

vii <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statutes/statute.aspx?id=3207>

viii <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/wholechild/Pages/Health-Education.aspx>

ix <https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/CSH/wholechild/Pages/Health-Education.aspx>

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

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