

LOUISIANA STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			RS 17.281
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			RS 17.281.A(2)
Be Age Appropriate	X			RS 17.281.A (1)(a)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			RS 17.281.A(4)(a&b)
Include HIV Education***	X			RS 17.281.A(4)(a)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		RS 17.281.A(3)
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse				
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents Must be Notified or Involved	X			RS 17.281.C
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			RS 17.281.D
Other: Abortion language— No contraceptive or abortifacient drug, device, or other similar product shall be distributed at any public school. Code 17:281.A(3)				
No program offering sex education instruction shall in any way counsel or advocate abortion. Code 17:281.F				

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



II. LOUISIANA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Louisiana

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.

- Louisiana received DASH funds totaling \$59,996 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.”

- Louisiana received PREP funds totaling \$694,093 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.

- Louisiana 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.**

- Louisiana received a Title V award totaling \$1,319,100 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)

- Louisiana received \$2,993,028ⁱⁱ in funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN LOUISIANA

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 Louisiana

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECEIPT
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies (IWES)
TPPP	Plan A Intervention	Policy and Research, LLC, TIAASH
TPPP	e-PS-R Practice Self Regulations	Policy and Research, LLC, TIAASH
PREP	Project Adult Identity Mentoring (Project AIM)	The STD/HIV Program of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
PREP	Wise Guys	The STD/HIV Program of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
PREP	Sisters Informing, Healing, Living, and Empowering (SiHLE)	The STD/HIV Program of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
PREP	e-PS-R Practice Self Regulations	POLICY AND RESEARCH, LLC,
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	The Office of Louisiana Youth for Excellence

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 LOUISIANA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Title 17^{iv}

Sexual Education is not required but "Parenthood education" is, which shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in family living and community relationships, the consequences of the lack of adequate prenatal care, home management, and the responsibilities of parenthood.^v

- Sexual education may be offered (RS 17:281):^{vi}
 - provided such instruction and subject matter is integrated into an existing course of study such as biology, science, physical hygiene, or physical education
 - When offered, such instruction shall be available also to nongraded special education students at age-appropriate levels. At what grade level it is to be offered shall be at the option of each public local or parish school board, provided that no such instruction shall be offered in kindergarten or in grades one through six
 - All instruction in "sex education" shall be identified and designated "sex education"
 - shall be available also to any student in such school, regardless of the student's grade level, who is pregnant or who is a mother or father.
- "sex education" shall mean the dissemination of factual biological or pathological information that is related to the human reproduction system and may include the study of sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, childbirth, puberty, menstruation, and menopause, as well as the dissemination of factual information about parental responsibilities under the child support laws of the state. It is the intent of the legislature that "sex education" shall not include religious beliefs, practices in human sexuality, nor the subjective moral and ethical judgments of the instructor or other persons. Students shall not be tested, quizzed, or surveyed about their personal or family beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion.
- No contraceptive or abortifacient drug, device, or other similar product shall be distributed at any public school. No sex education course offered in the public schools of the state shall utilize any sexually explicit materials depicting male or female homosexual activity.
- The major emphasis of any sex education instruction offered in the public schools of this state shall be to encourage sexual abstinence between unmarried persons and any such instruction shall:
 - Emphasize abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children.
 - Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a way to avoid unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.
 - Emphasize that each student has the power to control personal behavior and to encourage students to base action on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.
- Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the qualifications for all teachers or instructors in "sex education" shall be established and the selection of all such teachers or instructors shall be made solely and exclusively by the public local or parish school board.
- All books, films, and other materials to be used in instruction in "sex education" shall be submitted to and approved by the local or parish school board and by a parental review committee, whose membership shall be determined by such board.
- No program offering sex education instruction shall in any way counsel or advocate abortion.

Funding:

- A city or parish school system may accept federal funds for programs offering sex education only when the use of such funds does not violate the provisions of this Section and only upon approval by the local school board.

Parental Rights

- Any child may be excused from receiving instruction in "sex education" at the option and discretion of his parent or guardian. The local or parish school board shall provide procedures for the administration of this Subsection.
- Every public middle school, junior high school, or high school shall provide every parent, guardian, or legal custodian of every student.^{vii}
 - the courses being offered and the content of each
 - Any other information which may be helpful to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian in assisting his child in making informed decisions about the child's coursework.

According to SB 250,^{viii} Act 369 (enacted August 2018) Requires school governing authorities to provide parents with certain information relative to the health risks associated with pornography.

Age of Majority =

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

Age of Consent =

In Louisiana the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 17.^x



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN LOUISIANA

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 Louisiana may consent to and receive:

- Some contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services (Health care providers may inform the minor's parents, but are not required to do so.)
- All prenatal care services

In Louisiana, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services
- Adoption services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM LOUISIANA

June 5, 2018 – “John Bel Edwards signs bill to protect students from porn, cyberbullying”
https://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/06/safe_internet_for_students_law.html

April 8, 2018 - Voters asking same question
http://www.americanpress.com/opinion/jim-beam/voters-asking-same-question/article_4ac96e58-3b50-11e8-b7e7-13b4c36cfc71.html

April 3, 2018 - “Louisiana Bill Would Put Planned Parenthood in Charge of Sex Education”
<http://www.lifenews.com/2018/04/03/louisiana-bill-would-put-planned-parenthood-in-charge-of-sex-education/>

April 4, 2018 - “Louisiana House Committee Rejects Comprehensive Sex Ed”
<https://www.bestofneworleans.com/thelatest/archives/2018/04/04/louisiana-house-committee-rejects-comprehensive-sex-ed>

December 14, 2017 - “Editorial: Louisiana parents want sex education in schools. So why are legislators balking?”
<https://www.bestofneworleans.com/thelatest/archives/2017/12/14/editorial-louisiana-parents-want-sex-education-in-schools-so-why-are-legislators-balking>

May 15, 2017- “The facts of life: the state of sex ed in Louisiana”
https://www.theadvocate.com/gambit/new_orleans/news/article_1db9b66a-ff59-5e49-87f2-78a43e418b43.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/louisiana



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/Louisiana to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Sexual Education Legislation - <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=80423>
- Title 17 education - https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Laws_Toc.aspx?folder=75&level=Parent
- Louisiana Legislative page -
<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/home.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/louisiana 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 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource-library/search#?area%5B1981%5D=1981&type%5B168%5D=168&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://legis.la.gov/Legis/Laws_Toc.aspx?folder=75&level=Parent

^v <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=80412>

^{vi} <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=80423>

^{vii} <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=79959>

^{viii} <http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/BillInfo.aspx?i=233681>

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

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