

MASSACHUSETTS STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		12.69.1L
Sex Education Optional	X			12.69.1L
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**			X	
Include HIV Education	X			12.69.1L
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse			X	
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents must be Notified	X			12.71.32A
Involvement in Curriculum	X			12.69.1L, 12.71.38O
Access to Review Curriculum			X	12.71.32A
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			12.71.32A

*See 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/massachusetts or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. MASSACHUSETTS SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Massachusetts

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.

- Massachusetts received DASH funds totaling \$793,747 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.”

- Massachusetts received PREP funds totaling \$975,141 in fiscal year 2017.ⁱ

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.

- Massachusetts 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.**

- Massachusetts received NO Title V award 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)

- Massachusetts received \$749,999 in funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

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 Massachusetts

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PREP	Get Real	The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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 MASSACHUSETTS SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to Massachusetts Title XIIⁱⁱⁱ (as of July 2, 2018)

- Section 32A^{iv} Every city, town, regional school district or vocational school district implementing or maintaining curriculum which primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues shall adopt a policy ensuring parental/guardian notification. Such policy shall afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of said curriculum through written notification to the school principal. No child so exempted shall be penalized by reason of such exemption.
- Said policy shall be in writing, formally adopted by the school committee as a school district policy and distributed by September first, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and each year thereafter to each principal in the district. A copy of each school district's policy must be sent to the department of education after adoption.
- To the extent practicable, program instruction materials for said curricula shall be made reasonably accessible to parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and others for inspection and review.
- Section 38O^v In any city, town or regional school district which accepts this section, the school committee shall meet at least once every other month with an advisory committee which shall advise said school committee concerning reading, visual aid and all other material pertaining to sex education. Said committee shall consist of eleven members, one of whom shall be a physician and seven of whom shall be parents of children attending a school of such city, town or regional school district.

The board shall establish a comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service discretionary grant program. Funds for this program may be appropriated from the Health Protection Fund.^{vi}

Comprehensive interdisciplinary health education and human service programs shall include,

- Curriculum development
- teenage pregnancy
- AIDS
- As the primary educators of their children, parents shall play a substantial role in the design, development and implementation of programs and curriculum.

Instruction in health education shall include:

- AIDS/HIV prevention education in accordance with policies or regulations of the board
- Each school committee shall appoint an advisory council consisting of parents, junior and senior high school students, teachers, school counseling professionals, health and home economic educators, health professionals, school administrators, and representatives of community or regional health or social service agencies and representatives of local religious organizations.

Funds may be granted to a school district to provide for program coordinators, in-service training and program materials. It shall not be the primary focus of programs to finance various school-based clinics.

If the board rejects a proposal of a school committee under this section, then the board shall provide the respective school committee with a written explanation for rejection. The written explanation for rejection shall state the reasons for the rejection and suggest recommendations for resubmission.

Age of Majority =

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

Age of Consent =

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



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN MASSACHUSETTS

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 Massachusetts may consent to and receive:

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

In Massachusetts, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM MASSACHUSETTS

August 1, 2018 – “Saran Wrap Sex-Ed Bill Fails”

<https://newbostonpost.com/2018/08/01/saran-wrap-sex-ed-bill-fails/>

July 18, 2017 – “Should Your 12-Year-Old Be Forced To Learn Anal Sex?”

<https://newbostonpost.com/2017/07/18/should-your-12-year-old-be-forced-to-learn-anal-sex/>

July 25, 2017- “Move Aside, Parents, We’re Talking Sex to the Kids”

<http://newbostonpost.com/2017/07/25/move-aside-parents-were-talking-sex-to-the-kids/>

July 23, 2017- “The Massachusetts Legislature, week of July 17-21, 2017”

<http://www.telegram.com/news/20170723/beacon-hill-roll-call>



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/massachusetts



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/Massachusetts to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Massachusetts Health Education Guidelines - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter69/Section1L>
- Massachusetts Education Title XII - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII>
- Massachusetts Statutes - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI>
- Massachusetts Legislation - <https://malegislature.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

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/massachusetts 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%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://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII>

^{iv} <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section32A>

^v <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter71/Section38O>

^{vi} <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter69/Section1L>

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

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