

# MISSOURI STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		161.855
Sex Education Optional	X			170.015
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			170.015(3)
Be Age Appropriate	X			170.015(8.4)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased				
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			170.015(1)
Include HIV Education	X			170.015(2)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive				
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			170.015(7)
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents Must be Notified	X			170.015(8.5)
Parents Must be Involved in Curriculum			X	
Option to Review Curriculum	X			170.015(8.6)
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			170.015(8.5.2)
<b>Other:</b>				
Abortion References: No school district or charter school, or its personnel or agents, shall provide abortion services, or permit a person or entity to offer, sponsor, or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students if such person or entity is a provider of abortion services. 170.016 -8.7(8.a, b, c)				

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



## II. MISSOURI SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Missouri

**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](http://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.

- Missouri received DASH funds totaling \$75,000 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.”

- Missouri received PREP funds totaling \$899,642 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.

- Missouri received \$875,040 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.**

- Missouri received a Title V award totaling \$1,236,744 in fiscal year 2017.<sup>i</sup>

**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))

- Missouri received \$1,249,997 in funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>ii</sup>



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

**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 Missouri

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Choosing the Best	Better Family Life (BFL)
TPPP	Sisters Saving Sisters	Better Family Life (BFL)
TPPP	Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT)	Better Family Life (BFL)
TPPP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	Better Family Life (BFL)
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
PREP	Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART)	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	Changing Scenes	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	<b>Making a Difference!</b>	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	Hablemos	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	Within My Reach	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
TITLE V	WAIT training	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
SRAE	Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT)	The Curators of the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH), Thrive
SRAE	Luv U 2	Thrive

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 MISSOURI SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

### According to Missouri Title XI Education<sup>iii</sup> (As of July 2, 2018)

- **161.850.**<sup>iv</sup> (enacted 2010) The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and produce a publication entitled "The Parents' Bill of Rights" that shall be designed to inform parents of children with an individualized education program of their educational rights provided under federal and state law.
- **170.015<sup>v</sup>** (effective 2015) Any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases shall be medically and factually accurate and shall:
  - Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried pupils because it is the only method that is one hundred percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity, and advise students that teenage sexual activity places them at a higher risk of dropping out of school because of the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy;
  - Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious, possible, health hazards of sexual activity. Pupils shall be provided with the latest medical information regarding exposure to human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human papilloma virus, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases;
  - Present students with the latest medically factual information regarding both the possible side effects and health benefits of all forms of contraception, including the success and failure rates for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; or shall present students with information on contraceptives and pregnancy
  - Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity and the consequences of adolescent pregnancy, as well as the advantages of adoption, including the adoption of special needs children, and the processes involved in making an adoption plan;
  - Teach skills of conflict management, personal responsibility and positive self-esteem through discussion and role-playing at appropriate grade levels to emphasize that the pupil has the power to control personal behavior. Pupils shall be encouraged to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, sense of

responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations, such as respect for one's self and others. Pupils shall be taught not to make unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances or otherwise exploit another person. Pupils shall be taught to resist unwanted sexual advances and other negative peer pressure;

- Advise pupils of the laws pertaining to their financial responsibility to children born in and out of wedlock and advise pupils of the provisions of chapter 566 pertaining to statutory rape;
  - Teach pupils about the dangers of sexual predators, including online predators when using electronic communication methods such as the internet, cell phones, text messages, chat rooms, email, and instant messaging programs. Pupils shall be taught how to behave responsibly and remain safe on the internet and the importance of having open communication with responsible adults and reporting any inappropriate situation, activity, or abuse to a responsible adult, and depending on intent and content, to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline; and
  - Teach pupils about the consequences, both personal and legal, of inappropriate text messaging, even among friends.
- Policies concerning referrals and parental notification regarding contraception shall be determined by local school boards or charter schools, consistent with the provisions of section 167.611.
  - A school district or charter school which provides human sexuality instruction may separate students according to gender for instructional purposes.
  - The board of a school district or charter school shall determine the specific content of the district's or school's instruction in human sexuality, in accordance with subsections 1 to 3 of this section, and shall ensure that all instruction in human sexuality is appropriate to the age of the students receiving such instruction.
  - A school district or charter school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the district or school of:
    - The basic content of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student
    - The parent's right to remove the student from any part of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction.
    - A school district or charter school shall make all curriculum materials used in the district's or school's human sexuality instruction available for public inspection pursuant to chapter 610 prior to the use of such materials in actual instruction.
  - No school district or charter school, or its personnel or agents, shall provide abortion services, or permit a person or entity to offer, sponsor, or furnish in any manner any course materials or instruction relating to human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases to its students if such person or entity is a provider of abortion services. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

- **"Abortion"**, the same meaning as such term is defined in section 188.015
- **"Abortion services"**:
  - Performing, inducing, or assisting in the performance or inducing of an abortion which is not necessary to save the life of the mother;
  - Encouraging a patient to have an abortion or referring a patient for an abortion, which is not necessary to save the life of the mother; or
  - Developing or dispensing drugs, chemicals, or devices intended to be used to induce an abortion which is not necessary to save the life of the mother.

#### Age of Majority =

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

#### Age of Consent =

In Missouri, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 17.<sup>vii</sup>



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN MISSOURI

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 Missouri may consent to and receive:

- Some contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services\*\*
- All prenatal care services\*
- Legal counsel for adoption services.

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

In Missouri, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM MISSOURI

**August 29, 2018 – “STDs are on the rise in mid-Missouri, according to CDC”**  
<https://www.komu.com/news/sti-s-are-on-the-rise-in-mid-missouri-according-to-cdc>

**August 28, 2018 – “Sex ed, marriage and watercraft fines: Dozens of new laws in Missouri”** <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/sex-ed-marriage-and-watercraft-fines-dozens-of-new-laws-in-missouri/63-588401029>

**February 13, 2018 - “Missouri House member wants sex education in schools to go a step further”**  
<https://www.missourinet.com/2018/02/13/missouri-house-member-wants-sex-education-in-schools-to-go-a-step-further/>

**February 14, 2018 - “Missouri sex ed program would include consent under bill”**  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/missouri-sex-ed-program-would-include-consent-under-bill/>



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





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



## IX. RESOURCES

- Missouri Sexual Education Guidelines - <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=170.015&bid=8591&hl=>
- Missouri Title XI Education - <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneTitle.aspx?title=XI>
- Missouri Statutes 2016 - <http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/statutesAna.html>
- Missouri Legislation - <http://www.moga.mo.gov/>
- 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/missouri](http://www.stopcse.org/missouri) 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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<sup>i</sup> 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>

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

<sup>iii</sup> <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneTitle.aspx?title=XI>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=161.850&bid=7929&hl=>

<sup>v</sup> <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=161.850&bid=7929&hl=>

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

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