

NEW JERSEY STATE PROFILE

Prepared with an interest in protecting the health and innocence of children, this profile provides an overview of sex education in New Jersey, 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 NEW JERSEY

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			18A:35-4
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			18A:35-4.20&21
Include HIV Education	X			18A:35-4.21
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse			X	
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents Must be Notified			X	
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			18A:35-4.7

*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/new-jersey or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. NEW JERSEY SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for New Jersey

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.

- New Jersey 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.”

- New Jersey received PREP funds totaling \$1,305,824 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.

- New Jersey 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.**

- New Jersey received a Title V award totaling \$1,359,445 in fiscal year 2017. ⁱⁱ

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)

- New Jersey received \$959,00 in funding for years 2015-2019. ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEW JERSEY

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 New Jersey

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
PREP	SiHLE (Siters Informing, Healing, Living and Empowering)	New Jersey Department of Health, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
PREP	Making Proud Choice!	New Jersey Department of Health, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, The Partnership for Maternal and Child Health
PREP	Reducing the Risk	New Jersey Department of Health, Kean University, Planned Parenthood of Central and Greater Northern New Jersey
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	New Jersey Department of Health, The Central Jersey Family Health Consortium, Planned Parenthood of Central and Greater Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative
TITLE V	YES You Can!	The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health, Lifeguard, Inc., Mount Olives Church of God, Inc., Saint Peter's University Hospital
TITLE V	Relationship Intelligence	The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health, Institute for Relationship Intelligence
TITLE V	Peer Challenge	The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health, Lifeguard Inc.
TITLE V	Heritage Keepers	The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health
TITLE V	Respect Ed Curricula	The New Jersey Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health, Saint Peter's University Hospital

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 NEW JERSEY SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to 2018 New Jersey Education Title 18A^{iv}

18A:35-4.7^v Parent's statement of conflict with conscience

Any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs shall be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom

18A:35-4.20^{vi} Sex education programs to stress abstinence.

2. Any sex education that is given as part of any planned course, curriculum or other instructional program and that is intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to human sexual behavior, sexual feelings and sexual values, human sexuality and reproduction, pregnancy avoidance or termination, HIV infection or sexually transmitted diseases, regardless of whether such instruction is described as, or incorporated into a description of "sex education," "family life education," "family health education," "health education," "family living," "health," "self esteem," or any other course, curriculum program or goal of education, and any materials including, but not limited, to handouts, speakers, notes or audiovisuals presented on school property concerning methods for the prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy, shall stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy

18A:35-4.21^{vii} Abstinence from sexual activity stressed in curriculum.

3. The board of education shall include in its family life and HIV/AIDS curriculum instruction on reasons, skills and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from sexual activity. Any instruction concerning the use of contraceptives or prophylactics such as condoms shall also include information on their failure rates for preventing pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in actual use among adolescent populations and shall clearly explain the difference between risk reduction through the use of such devices and risk elimination through abstinence..

Age of Majority^{viii} =

Based on New Jersey state law, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a minor, while those 18 years old and older are considered adults.

Age of Consent^{ix} =

In New Jersey, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16.



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN NEW JERSEY

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 New Jersey may consent to and receive:

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

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

In New Jersey, parental notice is required for:

- Abortion services (Policy is not currently in effect as a court order has stopped this law's enforcement permanently or temporarily.)



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM NEW JERSEY

July 27, 2018 – “NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REQUIRING ABSTINENCE ONLY ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD”

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/07/27/new-jersey-abstinence-planned-parenthood/>

May 4, 2017- “Sex ed talk takes center stage at BOE meeting”

<http://montclairlocal.news/wp/index.php/2017/05/04/montclair-sex-ed-talk-takes-center-stage-at-boe-meeting/>

March 4, 2017- “Sex education talk raises concerns among Glenfield parents”

<http://www.montclairlocal.news/wp/index.php/2017/05/04/montclair-sex-education-talk-raises-concerns-among-glenfield-parents/>



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/new-jersey



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/new-jersey to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- New Jersey Statutes - <http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu>
- New Jersey Department of Education Comprehensive Health and Physical Education - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/chpe/>
- New Jersey Department of Education Human Sexuality and Family Life Education - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/fle/>
- New Jersey - HIV/STD and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/hsp/>
- New Jersey Legislation - <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>
- 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/new-jersey 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 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>

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

^{iv} NOTE: Codes can be found on same link. Look to side menu and keep scrolling until you find exact code #

^v <http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu>

^{vi} <http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu>

^{vii} <http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu>

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

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