

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		4.12
Sex Education Optional			X	
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate	X			4.29.(b)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			4.29.(b)
Include HIV Education/AIDS	X			4.29
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include safety against sexual abuse			X	
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents must be notified	X			4.29(c)
Parent Involvement			X	
Access to review curriculum	X			4.29.(c)
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			4.29.(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/Pennsylvania](http://StopCSE.org/Pennsylvania) or by emailing [StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org](mailto:StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org).



## II. PENNSYLVANIA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Pennsylvania

**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.

- Pennsylvania received DASH funds totaling \$793,750 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.”

- Pennsylvania received PREP funds totaling \$1,819,324 in fiscal year 2017.<sup>i</sup>

**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.

- Pennsylvania 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.**

- Pennsylvania received a Title V award totaling \$2,215,568 in fiscal year 2017.<sup>ii</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))

- Pennsylvania received \$1,749,000 in funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>iii</sup>



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

**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 Pennsylvania

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Promoting Awareness through Live Movement and Sound (PALMS-TPP)	PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PHMC)
PREP	Rikers Health Advocacy Program	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	Street Smart	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART)	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	All4You!	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	<b>Be Proud! Be Responsible!</b>	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective!	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT) – Comprehensive	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	SiHLE (Sisters Informing, Healing, Living, and Empowering)	Pennsylvania Department of Health
PREP	PALMS for Youth with ASD (PYA)	PHMC
TITLE V	Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT)	The Pennsylvania Department of Health

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 PENNSYLVANIA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES**

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

**According to Pennsylvania Education Code Title 22<sup>iv</sup> (as of July 2, 2018)**

**4.29. <sup>v</sup>(1949/2008)**

Instruction regarding prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other life-threatening and communicable diseases shall be given for primary, intermediate, middle school and high school education

Educational materials and instruction shall be determined by the local school district and be appropriate to the age group being taught. The program of instruction must include information about the nature of the diseases, treatments and cures, methods of transmission and how infection can be prevented. The school district may omit instruction in the elementary grades on transmission of disease through sexual activity. Programs discussing transmission through sexual activity must stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of preventing sexual transmission.

A school entity shall excuse a pupil from HIV/AIDS instruction when the instruction conflicts with the religious beliefs or principles of the pupil or parent or guardian of the pupil and when excusal is requested in writing. Prior to the commencement of instruction, a school district shall publicize that detailed curriculum outlines and curricular materials used in conjunction with the instruction are available to parents and guardians during normal school hours or at teacher-parent conferences.

**Age of Majority<sup>vi</sup> =**

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

**Age of Consent<sup>vii</sup> =**

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



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN PENNSYLVANIA

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 Pennsylvania may consent to and receive:

- All contraceptive services (applies to minors 14 and older).
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services
- All prenatal care services\* (applies to women who are at least 15 years old or older)  
\*Health care providers may inform the minor's parents, but are not required to do so.

In Pennsylvania, parental notice is required for:

- Adoption services

In Pennsylvania, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM PENNSYLVANIA

**May 23, 2018 – “Parents Outraged After 7th Graders Taught “Graphic” Sex Ed Lesson by Planned Parenthood Partner”** <https://www.lifenews.com/2018/05/23/parents-outraged-after-7th-graders-taught-graphic-sex-ed-lesson-by-planned-parenthood-partner/>

**May 22, 2018 – “Propel School Parents Upset Over ‘Graphic’ Sex Ed Lesson In 7th Grade Science Class: Propel Charter School System Launches Full Investigation”**  
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2018/05/22/propel-charter-school-hazelwood-sex-ed-lesson/>

**March 8, 2018 – “KC Miller Is Fighting For Comprehensive Sex Ed In Pennsylvania — And He's Only In High School”** <https://www.bustle.com/p/kc-miller-is-fighting-for-comprehensive-sex-ed-in-pennsylvania-hes-only-in-high-school-6754526>

**January 23, 2017 - “Pennsylvania’s Sex Education Legislation is Scarier Than You’d Think! – KC”** <https://independentseminarblog.com/2017/01/23/pennsylvanias-sex-education-legislation-is-scarier-than-youd-think/>

May 1, 2017 - “Banning women’s prenatal care is banning basic human rights, some women say” <http://www.theloquitur.com/banning-womens-prenatal-care-is-banning-basic-human-rights-some-women-say/#.WRHfw-XytEY>



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



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



## IX. RESOURCES

- Pennsylvania Title 22 Education - <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/022toc.html>
- Pennsylvania Statutes - [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/CH/Public/pcde\\_index.cfm](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/CH/Public/pcde_index.cfm)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education Health Education - <http://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Curriculum/Pages/Health--Physical-Education.aspx>
- Pennsylvania Legislation - <http://www.legis.state.pa.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](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/pennsylvania](http://www.stopcse.org/pennsylvania) 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> 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>iii</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program-tpp/about/index.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/022toc.html>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter4/s4.29.html>

<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>