

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PROFILE

Prepared with an interest in protecting the health and innocence of children, this profile provides an overview of sex education in South Carolina, 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 SOUTH CAROLINA

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required (X			59-32-20 (See legislation page for definition)
Sex Education Optional				
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate	X			59-32-10(1)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			59-32-10(2), 59-32-10(4.a&b)
Include HIV Education		X		59-32-30(E)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		59-32-30(A.5)
Include safety against sexual abuse	X			59.332.20(B, 59-32-30(G))
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents must be notified	X			59-32-50
Parent Involvement			X	
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			59-32-50
<p>Other: Abortion References - Abortion must not be included as a method of birth control. 59-32-10(4.c) School districts may not offer programs, instruction, or activities including abortion counseling, information about abortion services, or assist in obtaining abortion, and materials containing this information must not be distributed in schools. 59-32-30(D)</p>				

*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/South-Carolina or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. SOUTH CAROLINA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for South Carolina

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.

- South Carolina 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.”

- South Carolina received PREP funds totaling \$710,492 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.

- South Carolina 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.**

- South Carolina received a Title V award totaling \$1,243,133 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)

- South Carolina received \$3,771,132 in funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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 South Carolina

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Making a Difference!	The Children’s Council Mary Black Foundation (MBF), South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
TPPP	Seventeen Days	The Children’s Council Mary Black Foundation (MBF), South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	The Children’s Council Mary Black Foundation (MBF), South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
TPPP	Love Notes	Mary Black Foundation (MBF)
TPPP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	The Children’s Council Mary Black Foundation (MBF), South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
TPPP	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	Mary Black Foundation (MBF)
TPPP	Teen Health Project	Mary Black Foundation (MBF)
TPPP	Sisters Informing, Healing, and Educating (SiHLE)	Mary Black Foundation (MBF)
TPPP	Draw the Line/Respect the Line	South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
TPPP	Reducing the Risk	South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
PREP	Reducing the Risk	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
PREP	Making a Difference!	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
PREP	Making Proud Choices!: Out of Home Youth	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
PREP	Nu-Culture	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)
TITLE V	Heritage Keepers and Sex Can Wait	South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)

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 SOUTH CAROLINA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to South Carolina Education Code Title 59 (1988)^{iv} (as of July 2, 2018)

SECTION 59-32-20. Selection or adoption of instruction units by state board required.

(A) Before August 1, 1988, the board, through the department, shall select or develop an instructional unit with separate components addressing the subjects of reproductive health education, family life education, pregnancy prevention education, and sexually transmitted diseases and make the instructional unit available to local school districts. The board, through the department, also shall make available information about other programs developed by other states upon request of a local school district.

(B) In addition to the provisions of subsection (A), before September 1, 2015, the board, through the department, shall select or develop instructional units in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention, with separate units appropriate for each age level from four-year-old kindergarten through twelfth grade.

According to the Comprehensive Health Education Act^v

59-32-10(2) "Reproductive health education" means instruction in human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and postnatal care, but does not include instruction concerning sexual practices outside marriage or practices unrelated to reproduction except within the context of the risk of disease. Abstinence and the risks associated with sexual activity outside of marriage must be strongly emphasized.

59-32-10(4c) "Pregnancy prevention education" means instruction intended to:

- stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage;
- help students develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and abstain from sexual activity;
- explain methods of contraception and the risks and benefits of each method. Abortion must not be included as a method of birth control. Instruction explaining the methods of contraception must not be included in any education program for grades kindergarten through fifth. Contraceptive information must be given in the context of future family planning.

Instruction in each grade. SECTION 59-32-30.

- Grades kindergarten through five, instruction in comprehensive health education must include the following subjects: Sexually transmitted diseases as defined in the annual Department of Health and Environmental Control List of Reportable Diseases are to be excluded from instruction on the prevention and control of diseases and disorders. At the discretion of the local board, age-appropriate instruction in reproductive health may be included.
- Grades six through eight, instruction in comprehensive health must include the following subjects: ...reproductive health education. Sexually transmitted diseases are to be included as a part of instruction. At the discretion of the local board, instruction in family life education or pregnancy prevention education or both may be included, but instruction in these subjects may not include an explanation of the methods of contraception before the sixth grade.

- At least one time during the four years of grades nine through twelve, each student shall receive instruction in comprehensive health education, including at least seven hundred fifty minutes of reproductive health education and pregnancy prevention education.
- The program of instruction provided for in this section may not include a discussion of alternate sexual lifestyles from heterosexual relationships including, but not limited to, homosexual relationships except in the context of instruction concerning sexually transmitted diseases.
- In grades nine through twelve, students must also be given appropriate instruction that adoption is a positive alternative.
- Local school boards may use the instructional unit made available or may develop or select their own instructional materials addressing the subjects of reproductive health education, family life education, and pregnancy prevention education. To assist in the selection of components and curriculum materials, each local school board shall appoint a thirteen-member local advisory committee consisting of two parents, three clergy, two health professionals, two teachers, two students, one being the president of the student body of a high school, and two other persons not employed by the local school district.
- No contraceptive device or contraceptive medication may be distributed in or on the school grounds of any public elementary or secondary school. No school district may contract with any contraceptive provider for their distribution in or on the school grounds. Except as to that instruction provided by this chapter relating to complications which may develop from all types of abortions, school districts may not offer programs, instruction, or activities including abortion counseling, information about abortion services, or assist in obtaining abortion, and materials containing this information must not be distributed in schools. Nothing in this section prevents school authorities from referring students to a physician for medical reasons after making reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents or legal guardians or the appropriate court, if applicable.
- Any course or instruction in sexually transmitted diseases must be taught within the reproductive health, family life, or pregnancy prevention education components, or it must be presented as a separate component.
- Instruction in pregnancy prevention education must be presented separately to male and female students.
- districts annually shall provide age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade.

SECTION 59-32-90.

- **Films, pictures**, or diagrams in any comprehensive health education program in public schools must be designed solely for the purpose of explaining bodily functions or the human reproduction process and may not include actual or simulated portrayals of sexual activities or sexual intercourse.

Parental Rights SECTION 59-32-50

- Pursuant to policies and guidelines adopted by the local school board, public school principals shall develop a method of notifying parents of students in the relevant grades of the content of the instructional materials concerning reproductive health, family life, pregnancy prevention, and of their option to exempt their child from this instruction, and sexually transmitted diseases if instruction in the diseases is presented as a separate component. Notice must be provided sufficiently in advance of a student's enrollment in courses using these instructional materials to allow parents and legal guardians the opportunity to preview the materials and exempt their children.
- A public school principal, upon receipt of a statement signed by a student's parent or legal guardian stating that participation by the student in the health education program conflicts with the family's beliefs, shall exempt that student from any portion or all of the units on reproductive health, family life, and pregnancy prevention where any conflicts occur. No student must be penalized as a result of an exemption. School districts shall

use procedures to ensure that students exempted from the program by their parents or guardians are not embarrassed by the exemption.

Age of Majority^{vi} =

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

Age of Consent^{vii} =

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



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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 South Carolina may consent to and receive:

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

*Applies to “mature minors” 15 years old and younger and to all minors 16 and older.

In South Carolina, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services (applies to those younger than 17).



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

September 21, 2017 - “Worst 10 States for Sex Education # 4 South Carolina”

<https://www.stdtestexpress.com/blog/worst-10-states-sex-education-4-south-carolina/>

May 19, 2017 “Warehouse forum explores porn addiction, teens, and social media”

<https://greenvillejournal.com/2017/05/19/warehouse-forum-explores-porn-addiction-teens-social-media/>

Feb 11, 2017 – “Rise in teen STD rate in S.C. concerns health experts”

<http://www.goupstate.com/news/20170211/rise-in-teen-std-rate-in-sc-concerns-health-experts>

October 24, 2016 – “Charleston County School Board nixes

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/charleston-county-school-board-nixes-part-of-sex-education-curriculum/article_7e6f1846-9a09-11e6-b4df-e32fc56b9b8d.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/south-carolina



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/south-carolina to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- South Carolina Title 59 Education - <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/title59.php>

- Comprehensive Sexual Education on Legislative site - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c032.php>
- South Carolina Department of Education Health Standards - https://www.ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/Health_Safety_Standards_Approved_Second_Reading_08082017.pdf
- South Carolina Legislation - <http://www.scstatehouse.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

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/south-carolina 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>

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- 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 <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/title59.php>
 - v <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c032.php>
 - vi <http://statelaws.findlaw.com/family-laws/legal-ages.html>
 - vii <https://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/age-of-consent-by-state.html?intakeredesigned=1>