

# VERMONT STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		16 V.S.A. § 133
Sex Education Optional	X			16 V.S.A. § 131
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			16 V.S.A. § 133
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased				
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			16 V.S.A. § 131(5)
Include HIV Education	X			16 V.S.A. § 131(4)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse	X			16 V.S.A. § 131(11)
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents Must be Notified			X	
Parent Involvement	X			16 V.S.A. § 131 (5)
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			16 V.S.A. § 134
<b>Other:</b>				
Abortion References - Human growth and development shall include information regarding the possible outcomes of premature sexual activity, contraceptives, adolescent pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, and abortion. Code 16-131.8				

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



## II. VERMONT SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Vermont

**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.

- Vermont received DASH funds totaling \$400,000 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.”

- Vermont received PREP funds totaling \$250,000 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.

- Vermont 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.**

- Vermont received NO Title V award totaling 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))

- Vermont received NO TPP funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>iii</sup>



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

**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 Vermont

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
DASH	Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool	Vermont Department of Education
DASH	National Sexuality Education Standards	Vermont Department of Education
PREP	Reducing the Risk	The Vermont Department of Health
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	The Vermont Department of Health
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible! Be Protective!	The Vermont 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 VERMONT SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to 2017 Vermont Education Code Title 16<sup>iv</sup>  
(Cite as: 16 V.S.A. § 131)

- **§ 131. Definitions<sup>v</sup>**
- For purposes of this subchapter, "comprehensive health education" means a systematic and extensive elementary and secondary educational program designed to provide a variety of learning experiences based upon knowledge of the human organism as it functions within its environment. The term includes the study of:
  - (1) Body structure and function, including the physical, psychosocial and psychological basis of human development, sexuality, and reproduction.
  - (2) Community health to include environmental health, pollution, public health, and world health.
  - (3) Safety including:
    - (A) first aid, disaster prevention, and accident prevention; and
    - (B) information regarding and practice of compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators.
  - (4) Disease, such as HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as other communicable diseases, and the prevention of disease.
  - (5) Family health and mental health, including instruction that promotes the development of responsible personal behavior involving decision making about sexual activity including abstinence; skills that strengthen existing family ties involving communication, cooperation, and interaction between parents and students; and instruction to aid in the establishment of strong family life in the future, thereby contributing to the enrichment of the community; and which promotes an understanding of depression and the signs of suicide risk in a family member or fellow student that includes how to respond appropriately and seek help and provides an awareness of the available school and community resources such as the local suicide crisis hotline.
  - (6) Personal health habits including dental health.
  - (7) Consumer health, including health careers, health costs, and utilizing health services.
  - (8) Human growth and development, including understanding the physical, emotional, and social elements of individual development and interpersonal relationships, including instruction in parenting methods and styles. This shall include information regarding the possible outcomes of premature sexual activity, contraceptives, adolescent pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, and abortion.
  - (9) Drugs, including education about alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, and prescribed drugs.
  - (10) Nutrition.
  - (11) How to recognize and prevent sexual abuse and sexual violence, including developmentally appropriate instruction about promoting healthy and respectful relationships, developing and maintaining effective communication with trusted adults, recognizing sexually offending behaviors, and gaining awareness of available school and community resources. An employee of the school shall be in the room during the provision of all instruction or information presented under this

## 16 V.S.A. 134 Religious exemption<sup>vi</sup>

Any student whose parent shall present to the school principal a signed statement that the teaching of disease, its symptoms, development, and treatment, conflicts with the parents' religious convictions shall be exempt from such instruction, and no child so exempt shall be penalized by reason of that exemption.

### Age of Majority<sup>vii</sup> =

Based on Vermont 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>viii</sup> =

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



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN VERMONT

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 Vermont may consent to and receive:

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



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM VERMONT

October 26, 2017 – “Let’s Talk Month aims to destigmatize sex” <https://vtcynic.com/opinion/lets-talk-month-aims-to-destigmatize-sex/>

October 7, 2015 - “According to Trojan Study, Vermont has Safest Sex”  
<https://middleburycampus.com/32627/local/according-to-trojan-study-vermont-has-safest-sex/>

June 6, 2012 - “Why Vermont Is Paying Some Teens to Take Sex Ed”  
<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/why-vermont-is-paying-some-teens-to-take-sex-ed/Content?oid=2184227>



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



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



## IX. RESOURCES

- Vermont Legislation - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>
- Vermont Sexual/Health Education guidelines (scroll to subchap. 7) - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/16/001>
- 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/vermont](http://www.stopcse.org/vermont) 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)

Rev. Sep. 2018

<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://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/16>

<sup>v</sup> <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/001/00131>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/16/001/00134>

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

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