

VIRGINIA STATE PROFILE

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



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEX EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		22.1-207.1(B)
Sex Education Optional				
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate	X			22.1-207.1(B)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			22.1-207.1(A), 22.1-207.1(B)
Include HIV Education			X	
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		22.1-207.1(B)
Include Safety Against Sexual Abuse			X	
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents Must be Notified	X			22.1-207.2
Parent Involvement			X	
Access to Review Curriculum	X			22.1-207.2
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			22.1-207.2

*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/virginia or by emailing StopCSE@FamilyWatch.org.



II. VIRGINIA SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Virginia

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.

- Virginia received DASH funds totaling \$79,915 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.”

- Virginia received NO PREP funds 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.

- Virginia 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.**

- Virginia received a Title V award totaling \$1,254,747 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)

- Virginia received NO TPP funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA

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 Virginia

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
PREP	Vision of You (VOY)	James Madison University (JMU)
PREP	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	Family Service of Roanoke Valley (Family Service), JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS)
PREP	Draw the Line/Respect the Line	JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS), City of Alexandria
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	City of Alexandria
PREP	Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART)	City of Alexandria
PREP	¡Cuídate!	City of Alexandria
PREP	Making Proud Choices: An Adaptation for Youth in Out-of-Home Care	Virginia League for Planned Parenthood (VLPP)
PREP	Reducing the Risk!	Virginia League for Planned Parenthood (VLPP)
TITLE V	Choosing the Best	The Virginia Department of Health
TITLE V	Teen Outreach Program (TOP)	The Virginia Department of Health

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 VIRGINIA SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to 2017 Virginia Education Title 22.1^{iv}

A. "abstinence education" means an educational or motivational component that has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by teenagers' abstaining from sexual activity before marriage. (22.1-207.1A)

B. The Board of Education shall develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum^v. Such curriculum guidelines shall include:

- instruction as appropriate for the age of the student in family living and community relationships;
- the benefits, challenges, responsibilities, and value of marriage for men, women, children, and communities;
- the value of family relationships;
- abstinence education;
- the value of postponing sexual activity;
- the benefits of adoption as a positive choice in the event of an unwanted pregnancy;
- human sexuality;
- human reproduction;
- dating violence, the characteristics of abusive relationships, steps to take to deter sexual assault, and the availability of counseling and legal resources, and, in the event of such sexual assault, the importance of immediate medical attention and advice, as well as the requirements of the law;
- the etiology, prevention, and effects of sexually transmitted diseases; and mental health education and awareness.

C. All such instruction shall be designed to promote parental involvement, foster positive self-concepts, and provide mechanisms for coping with peer pressure and the stresses of modern living according to the students' developmental stages and abilities.

Parental Rights^{vi}

Every parent, guardian shall have the right to review and shall be made available to review the complete family life curricula, including all supplemental materials, audio or video used in any family life education program.

Each school board shall develop and distribute to the parents or guardians of a student participating in the family life education program a summary designed to assist parents in understanding the program implemented in its school.

According to new 2018 HB 45^{vii}

Family life education curricula; personal privacy and personal boundaries

Family life education curricula; personal privacy and personal boundaries. Requires any family life education curriculum offered in any elementary school, middle school, or high school to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals and tools for a student to use to ensure that he respects the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals.

Age of Majority^{viii} =

Based on Virginia 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 Virginia, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 18.



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN VIRGINIA

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 Virginia may consent to and receive:

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

In Virginia, parental notice AND consent is required for:

- Abortion services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM VIRGINIA

July 2018 – “Parents denied access to public school sex education materials is shocking government overreach” <https://yellowhammernews.com/parents-denied-access-to-public-school-sex-education-materials-is-shocking-government-overreach/>

June 15, 2018 - “Fairfax Co. school district passes proposals to modify sex ed, dress codes”
<https://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2018/06/school-district-considers-changes-to-sex-ed-dress-codes/>

February 12, 2018 - “How the Virginia Sex-Ed curriculum hurts students”
<https://thsgazette.com/1991/features/how-the-virginia-sex-ed-curriculum-hurts-students/>



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/virginia



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/virginia to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Virginia Education Title 22.1 - <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/>
- Virginia Family Life Standards -
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1/>
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1:1/>
- Virginia Education Curriculum Requirements -
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/>
- Virginia Legislation - <http://viriniageneralassembly.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/virginia 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} <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/>
 - ^v <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1/>
 - ^{vi} <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.2/>
 - ^{vii} <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+sum+HB45>
 - ^{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>