

# WASHINGTON STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		<b><u>28A.150.210</u></b>
Sex Education Optional	X			<b><u>28A.230.020</u></b>
<b>If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:</b>				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			28A.230.070(2, 3), 70.24.250
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			28A.230.070(7)
Include HIV Education	X			28A.230.070(6)
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include safety against sexual abuse	X			<b><u>28A.230.020</u></b>
<b>Parental Role in Sexual Education:</b>				
Parents must be notified	X			28A.230.070(4)
Parent Involvement	X			28A.150.210, 28A.230.070(2)
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			28A.230.070

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



## II. WASHINGTON SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

### Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Washington

**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.

- Washington received DASH funds totaling \$340,000 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.”

- Washington received PREP funds totaling \$1,007,171 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.

- Washington 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.**

- Washington received NO Title V award 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))

- Washington received \$5,713,670 in funding for years 2015-2019.<sup>iii</sup>



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

**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 Washington

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Love Notes	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands
TPPP	Families Talking Together (FTT)	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands
TPPP	<b>Get Real</b>	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands, Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	Sisters Saving Sisters	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands
TPPP	Positive Prevention PLUS	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands
TPPP	Safer Sex	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands
TPPP	All4You!	Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands, Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	Project AIM	Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	Seventeen Days	Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
TPPP	<b>High School FLASH (FLASH)</b>	Public Health – Seattle and King County
PREP	<b>Be Proud! Be Responsible!</b>	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	<b>iCuídate!</b>	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	<b>Draw the Line/Respect the Line</b>	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	SiHLE (Sistas, Informing, Healing, Living, Empowering)	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Positive Prevention PLUS	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	<b>Reducing the Risk</b>	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	<b>Making Proud Choices!</b>	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Native STAND	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Native VOICES	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Native It's Your Game	The Washington State Department of Health
PREP	Family Life and Sexual Health (FLASH) High School	The Washington State 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 WASHINGTON SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

### According to Washington Title 28A RCW<sup>iv</sup>

RCW 28A.150.210<sup>v</sup>

Findings—Intent—1993 c 336: "The legislature finds that student achievement in Washington must be improved to keep pace with societal changes, changes in the workplace, and an increasingly competitive international economy.

To increase student achievement, the legislature finds that the state of Washington needs to develop a public school system that focuses more on the educational performance of students, that includes high expectations for all students, and that provides more flexibility for school boards and educators in how instruction is provided.

The legislature further finds that improving student achievement will require:

- Parents to be primary partners in the education of their children, and to play a significantly greater role in local school decision making;

RCW 28A.150.210<sup>vi</sup>

### Basic education—Goals of school districts. Does not require Sexual Education

A basic education is an evolving program of instruction that is intended to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens, to contribute to their economic well-being and that of their families and communities, to explore and understand different perspectives, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives. Additionally, the state of Washington intends to provide for a public school system that is able to evolve and adapt in order to better focus on strengthening the educational achievement of all students, which includes high expectations for all students and gives all students the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success. To these ends, the goals of each school district, with the involvement of parents and community members, shall be to provide opportunities for every student to develop the knowledge and skills essential to:

RCW 28A.230.020

### Common school curriculum<sup>vii</sup>

All teachers shall stress the minimum requisites for good health including the beneficial effect of physical exercise and methods to prevent exposure to and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. The prevention of child abuse may be offered as part of the curriculum in the common schools.

RCW 28A.230.070<sup>viii</sup>

### AIDS education in public schools—Limitations—Program adoption—Model curricula—Student's exclusion from participation.

(1) The life-threatening dangers of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and its prevention shall be taught in the public schools of this state. AIDS prevention education shall be limited to the discussion of the life-threatening dangers of the disease, its spread, and prevention. Students shall receive such education at least once each school year beginning no later than the fifth grade.

(2) Each district board of directors shall adopt an AIDS prevention education program which is developed in consultation with teachers, administrators, parents, and other community members

including, but not limited to, persons from medical, public health, and mental health organizations and agencies so long as the curricula and materials developed for use in the AIDS education program either (a) are the model curricula and resources under subsection (3) of this section, or (b) are developed by the school district and approved for medical accuracy by the office on AIDS established in RCW 70.24.250. If a district elects to use curricula developed by the school district, the district shall submit to the office on AIDS a copy of its curricula and an affidavit of medical accuracy stating that the material in the district-developed curricula has been compared to the model curricula for medical accuracy and that in the opinion of the district the district-developed materials are medically accurate. Upon submission of the affidavit and curricula, the district may use these materials until the approval procedure to be conducted by the office of AIDS has been completed.

(3) Model curricula and other resources available from the superintendent of public instruction may be reviewed by the school district board of directors, in addition to materials designed locally, in developing the district's AIDS education program. The model curricula shall be reviewed for medical accuracy by the office on AIDS established in RCW 70.24.250 within the department of social and health services.

(4) Each school district shall, at least one month before teaching AIDS prevention education in any classroom, conduct at least one presentation during weekend and evening hours for the parents and guardians of students concerning the curricula and materials that will be used for such education. The parents and guardians shall be notified by the school district of the presentation and that the curricula and materials are available for inspection. No student may be required to participate in AIDS prevention education if the student's parent or guardian, having attended one of the district presentations, objects in writing to the participation.

(5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction with the assistance of the office on AIDS shall update AIDS education curriculum material as newly discovered medical facts make it necessary.

(6) The curriculum for AIDS prevention education shall be designed to teach students which behaviors place a person dangerously at risk of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and methods to avoid such risk including, at least:

- (a) The dangers of drug abuse, especially that involving the use of hypodermic needles; and
- (b) The dangers of sexual intercourse, with or without condoms.

(7) The program of AIDS prevention education shall stress the life-threatening dangers of contracting AIDS and shall stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain means for the prevention of the spread or contraction of the AIDS virus through sexual contact. It shall also teach that condoms and other artificial means of birth control are not a certain means of preventing the spread of the AIDS virus and reliance on condoms puts a person at risk for exposure to the disease.

### **Age of Majority<sup>ix</sup> =**

Based on Washington 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>x</sup> =**

In Washington, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 17.



## V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN WASHINGTON

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 Washington may consent to and receive:

- All contraceptive services
- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services (applies to minors 14 & under)
- All prenatal care services



## VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM WASHINGTON

July 17, 2017 – “The Power of Inclusive Sex Education LGBTQ students say they need programming that speaks to them, and some school districts are finding ways to deliver.”  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/07/the-power-of-inclusive-sex-ed/533772/>

June 26, 2017 - “Spokane Public Schools Board removes sex education discussion from agenda” <https://www.krem.com/article/news/education/spokane-public-schools-board-removes-sex-education-discussion-from-agenda/452265276>

June 29, 2017 - “Failure to Launch”  
<https://www.inlander.com/spokane/failure-to-launch/Content?oid=4597443>

June 28, 2017 - “Spokane schools delay sex-ed plan amid concerns about Planned Parenthood”  
[http://www.union-bulletin.com/news/education/spokane-schools-delay-sex-ed-plan-amid-concerns-about-planned/article\\_8bd8ac06-5c1c-11e7-80f8-2b8540b089c2.html](http://www.union-bulletin.com/news/education/spokane-schools-delay-sex-ed-plan-amid-concerns-about-planned/article_8bd8ac06-5c1c-11e7-80f8-2b8540b089c2.html)

June 27, 2017 - “Spokane Public Schools won't consider sex ed curriculum during board meeting tonight”  
<https://www.inlander.com/Bloglander/archives/2017/06/27/spokane-public-schools-wont-consider-sex-ed-curriculum-during-board-meeting-tomorrow>





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



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



## IX. RESOURCES

- Washington Sexual Education guidelines - <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.070>
- Washington Revised Code/Statute - <http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx>
- Washington Legislation - <http://leg.wa.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](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/washington](http://www.stopcse.org/washington) 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> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?Cite=28A>

<sup>v</sup> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.150.210>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.150.210>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.020>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.070>

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

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