

WISCONSIN STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required		X		
Sex Education Optional	X			1818.019
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*	X			1818.019(1.b, 2.a)
Be Age Appropriate	X			1818.019(1.a, 2.a)
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased	X			1818.019.2d
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			1818.019(2.a.5), 1818.019.2d
Include HIV Education	X			1818.019.2m.i
Be LGBTQ Inclusive			X	
Include safety against sexual abuse	X			1818.019(2.d&f)
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents must be notified	X			1818.019(3)
Parent Involvement	X			1818.019(1, 2.a.1, 5)
Access to review curriculum	X			1818.019(3)
Opt-In				
Opt-Out Option	X			1818.019(3),1818.019(4)

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



II. WISCONSIN SEX EDUCATION FEDERAL FUNDING PROFILE

Federal Government Programs and Grants Awarded for Wisconsin

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.

- Wisconsin received DASH funds totaling \$415,000 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.”

- Wisconsin received PREP funds totaling \$857,978 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.

- Wisconsin 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.**

- Wisconsin received a Title V award totaling \$1,012,104 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)

- Wisconsin received \$1,198,969 in funding for years 2015-2019.ⁱⁱⁱ



III. FEDERALLY FUNDED SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN WISCONSIN

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 Wisconsin

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM	FUNDING RECIPIENT
TPPP	Making Proud Choices!	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
TPPP	Safer Sex Intervention	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
TPPP	Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT) – Comprehensive	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
PREP	Making Proud Choices!	The Family Health Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
PREP	Health Improvement Project for Teens (HIP Teens)	The Family Health Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
PREP	Be Proud! Be Responsible!	The Family Health Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
PREP	Street Smart	The Family Health Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
PREP	Discovery Dating	GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC. (GLITC)
TITLE V	Promoting Health Among Teens- Abstinence Only	The Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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 WISCONSIN SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

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

According to updated 2015-2016) Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations Publication code 118.019^{iv} (July 2, 2018)

When addressing Sexual Education:

- Must be Age-appropriate - suitable to a particular age group of pupils based on their developing cognitive and emotional capacity and consistent with adolescent development and community standards
- Must be Medically accurate - information that is scientifically-based and published, where appropriate, in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks.
- Present importance of communication about sexuality between the pupil and the pupil's parents or guardians.
- Reproductive and sexual anatomy and physiology, including biological, psychosocial, emotional, and intellectual changes that accompany maturation.
- The benefits of and reasons for abstaining from sexual activity. Instruction under this subdivision shall stress the value of abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and shall identify the skills necessary to remain abstinent.
- Presents abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried pupils.
- Emphasizes that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage is the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.
- Explains pregnancy, prenatal development, and childbirth.
- Provides medically accurate information about the human papilloma virus and the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

School Board and Parental Rights

- A school board may provide an instructional program in human growth and development in grades kindergarten to 12. If the school board elects to provide an instructional program under this section, when the school board establishes the curriculum for the instructional program, the school board shall make determinations as to whether and, if so, for what subjects covered in the curriculum the pupils shall be separated by gender.
- Each school board that provides an instructional program in human growth and development shall annually provide the parents or guardians of each pupil enrolled in the school district with an outline of the human growth and development curriculum used in the pupil's grade level, information regarding how the parent or guardian may inspect the complete curriculum and instructional materials
- The school board shall make the complete human growth and development curriculum and all instructional materials available for inspection by a parent or guardian upon his or her request at any time, including prior to their use in the classroom.
- No pupil may be required to take instruction in human growth and development if the pupil's parent or guardian files with the teacher or school principal a written request that the pupil be exempted.

- In any school district that offers a human growth and development curriculum, the school board shall appoint an ad hoc advisory committee whose role is to advise the school board on the design and implementation of the human growth and development curriculum and to review the curriculum. Parents, teachers, school administrators, pupils, health care professionals, members of the clergy, and other residents of the school district shall comprise the committee. No one category of member shall constitute more than one-fifth of the membership of the committee, except that parents may comprise more than one-fifth of the membership of the committee.
- Health education in grades kindergarten through 6 shall be under the direction of a licensed health teacher. In grades 7 through 12, health education shall be conducted by or under the direction of a licensed health teacher and shall include one structured course in health taught by a licensed health teacher.^v

Age of Majority^{vi} =

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



V. PARENTAL RIGHTS AT RISK IN WISCONSIN

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 Wisconsin may consent to and receive:

- All STI (sexually transmitted infection) services

In Wisconsin, parental consent is required for:

- Abortion services



VI. NEWS HEADLINES FROM WISCONSIN

June 21, 2018 - “Wisconsin Schools Approve Radical Sex-Ed for K-5”

<https://freedomproject.com/the-newman-report/701-wisconsin-schools-approve-radical-sex-ed-for-k-5>

June 1, 2018 – “Trump remaking federal policy on women’s reproductive health”

https://www.wisconsin Gazette.com/news/trump-remaking-federal-policy-on-women-s-reproductive-health/article_d9870bd0-65af-11e8-a427-c770f11a05ea.html

November 27, 2017 - “Neenah School’s sex education curriculum comes under fire”

<https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/education/2017/11/27/neenah-schools-sex-education-curriculum-comes-under-fire/874307001/>

March 12, 2018 – “Major sexually transmitted infection cluster found in Milwaukee: The outbreak follows years of state-mandated abstinence-only education.” <https://thinkprogress.org/milwaukee-hiv-syphilis-outbreak-91c81fc01dbb/>



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/wisconsin



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/wisconsin to connect.



IX. RESOURCES

- Wisconsin Education Guidelines for Human Growth and Development Instruction code 118 - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/019>
- Wisconsin Public Instruction - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/prefaces/toc>
- Wisconsin Legislation - <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Wisconsin Department of Education - <https://dpi.wi.gov/>
- Wisconsin DEO Health guidelines page 7 - <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cal/pdf/wi-edstds.pdf>
- 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/wisconsin 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

Rev. Sep. 2018

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://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/118/019>

^v <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/cal/pdf/wi-edstds.pdf> (page 7)

^{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>