



Teaching Sexual Health Education in Missouri Schools

State Laws and Guidance

Missouri Revised Statutes § 170.015 Sex Education

- Schools are not required to teach sex ed - this decision is left with local school boards.
- If a district chooses to teach sex ed, materials and instruction are required to:
 - Be medically and factually accurate
 - “Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relation to all sexual activity for unmarried pupils.”
 - Teach about contraceptives, within a curriculum that promotes abstinence.
 - Include information on sexual predators, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and consent.
- Schools that offer sex ed must make all curriculum materials publicly available.
- Parents have the right to remove their child from sex ed classes, known as an “opt out” policy.

Missouri Revised Statutes § 170.045 Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education

Starting with the 2020-21 school year, each school is required to provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate sexual abuse training to students in 6th grade and up.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Grade Level Expectations for Health Education

Look for these content standards:

- Reproductive System.
- Adolescent Health Issues and Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- HIV/ AIDS Prevention Education.
- Abstinence, Prevention Behaviors and Teen Pregnancy.

Missouri Revised Statutes § 573.550 Explicit Sexual Material

Providing explicit sexual material to a student is prohibited. However, the law specifies that it does not apply to materials used in sex ed classes, science courses, or as works of art.





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Curriculum, Lessons, and Content

(Free resources for the classroom)

- **DHSS Adolescent Health Programs** - <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/adolescenthealth/training.php>
- **Federal listing of evidence-based programs** - <https://tppevidencereview.youth.gov/EvidencePrograms.aspx>
- **Rights, Respect, Responsibility** - <https://www.3rs.org/>
- **Answer lesson plans** - https://answer.rutgers.edu/page/lesson_plans/
- **Amaze.org** - <https://amaze.org/>

Curriculum Assessment

- **CDC's Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT)** - <https://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/HECAT/index.htm>
- **HECAT Sexual Health Curriculum Module** - https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/hecat/pdf/2021/hecat_module_sh.pdf
- **HECAT Sexual Health Education Scope and Sequence** - https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/hecat/pdf/scope_and_sequence.pdf
- **National Sexuality Education Standards** - <https://sexeducationcollaborative.org/resources/nses>

Best Practices and Professional Development

- **Foundations sex education facilitation skills training offered by DHSS** - <https://foundationstraining.org/about/>
- **Techniques and Approaches for a Healthy Sex Ed Class** - <https://www.healthyteennetwork.org/resources/teachers-guide-sex-ed/>
- **Creating an Inclusive Classroom for Sex Ed** - <https://www.healthyteennetwork.org/resources/teaching-inclusive-sex-ed/>
- **Being a Trauma-Informed Sex Educator** - https://www.healthyteennetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/Are-You-a-Trauma-Informed-Sex-Educator_.pdf



The DHSS Adolescent Health team is available for free sexual health education consultations and trainings. Visit us online at Health.Mo.Gov/youth or email us at connect@health.mo.gov.