



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.

