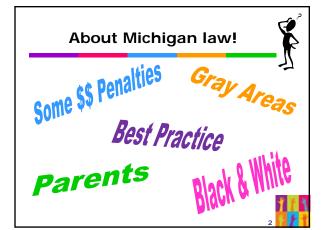


#### Michigan Law & Sex Education Advisory Boards

Barb Flis, Founder
Parent Action for Healthy Kids
barb@parentactionforhealthykids.org



# Required ~ Optional

- School districts are required to teach about dangerous communicable diseases, including but not limited to HIV/AIDS.
- School districts can choose to teach sex education.



#### **Instructional Standard**

 Instruction regarding dangerous communicable diseases, including but not limited to HIV/AIDS, must be offered at least once a year at every building level.



Elementary Middle/Junior High School



## **HIV Content (Required)**



- It must include the principal modes by which dangerous communicable diseases are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases.
- It must stress that abstinence from sex as a responsible method for restriction and prevention of these diseases and as a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people.



# **Curricula Adoption HIV Education vs. Sex Education**

	Advisory Board	Notice and 2 Public Hearings	Board Approval
HIV Education		<b>V</b>	V
Sex Education	<b>V</b>	<b>*</b>	V





#### **Parent Notification**



- For HIV/AIDS and sex education, parents and/or legal guardians must be notified in advance of:
  - The **content** of the instruction
  - Their right to review materials in advance
  - Their right to **observe** instruction
  - Their right to excuse their child without penalty



# **Continuing Written Notice**

• If a parent or legal guardian files a continuing written notice (i.e., a request to have their child permanently excluded from sex education classes), the student shall not be enrolled in the class(es) unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written authorization for that enrollment.





## **Parent Complaint Process**

- There is a complaint process spelled out in the law
- Local → Intermediate School District → State
- Multiple opportunities to take corrective action
- If districts still don't comply, financial penalties can occur
- Only violations of certain segments of the law can result in financial penalties, for example:
  - HIV/AIDS mandate
  - Advisory board
  - Public hearings and board approval
  - Parent notification
  - Referrals for abortion
  - Dispensing family planning device





#### **Abstinence**



Shall stress that abstinence from sex is a responsible and effective method for the restriction and prevention of these diseases...





#### Abstinence Language



abstinence from sexual behaviors as the only way to completely avoid the negative consequences of being sexually active.

Promotes abstinence as the only way to completely avoid the negative consequences of being sexually active. Also teaches ways to reduce the risk of pregnancy or HIV/STD infection associated with sexual activity.



# Sex Education Content (Required)

- It must emphasize abstinence from sex is a positive lifestyle for unmarried young people
- Material and instruction in the sex education curriculum...that discusses sex
  - shall be age-appropriate
  - shall not be medically inaccurate
  - can include behavioral risk reduction strategies, as defined by law
  - shall do at least all of the following (a-k):



## Required Content, "A-K"

- (a) Benefits of abstinence
- (b) Consequences of sex
- (c) Pregnancy and STDs
- (d) Responsibility as parents
- (e) Laws pertaining to sex
- (f) Consent
- (g) Refusal skills
- (h) Personal power
- (i) Healthy dating relationships
- (j) Adoption/Safe Delivery
- (k) Underage sex





## **Content (Prohibited)**



A district in which a school official, member of a board, or other person dispenses or otherwise distributes a family planning drug or device in a public school...dispenses prescriptions for any family planning drug...shall forfeit 5% of its total state aid appropriation.



# **Content (Prohibited)**



- Clinical abortion shall not be considered a method of family planning, nor shall abortion be taught as a method of reproductive health.
  - "Reproductive health" is defined as that state of an individual's well-being which involves the reproductive system and its physiological, psychological, and endocrinological functions.

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Add	itional	Proh	nibiti	ion
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A district in which a school official, member of a board, or other person...makes a referral for abortion shall forfeit 5% of its state aid appropriation.



#### **Teacher Training**



- Except for licensed health care professional who have received training on HIV/AIDS, each person who teaches K-12 pupils about **HIV/AIDS** shall have training in HIV and AIDS education for young people.
- A district that provides sex education shall offer the instruction by teachers qualified to teach health education.



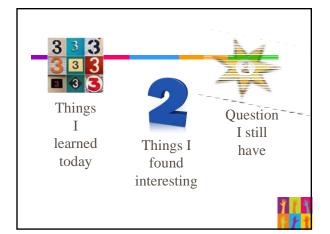
# Qualified to Teach Health

- A teacher who provides instruction in health education is required to have the appropriate endorsement on his or her certificate.
- At the secondary level, teachers must have one of the following endorsements to be qualified to teach health.
  - MA (health)
  - MX (health, physical education, recreation and dance)
  - KH (family and consumer sciences)



# Teacher Training (cont.)

- Trainings in both HIV/AIDS and sex education/reproductive health are usually offered through the regional ISD or RESA that services that district. Recommended to be taken every 5 years.
- Guest speakers are not required by law to go through these trainings. A trained teacher, however, should always be in the classroom when guest speakers are presenting.





#### **Sex Education Advisory Board**

Every district that chooses to implement sex education must have a sex education advisory board to periodically review materials and methods, and make recommendations to the district regarding changes.





#### **Sex Education Supervisor**

- Every district choosing to have a sex education program must have a Sex Education Supervisor who oversees the program of instruction.
  - A program of instruction in reproductive health shall be supervised by a registered physician, a registered nurse, or other person certified by the state as qualified.



#### **School Board Responsibilities**

- Determine terms of service for sex education advisory board
- Determine number of members (Min 8)
- Determine membership selection process that reasonably reflects the school district
- Appoint two co-chairs
  - one must be a parent of a child attending a school in the district

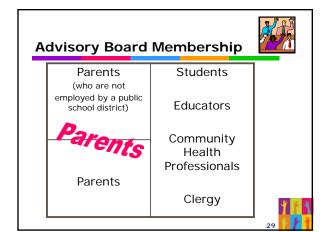


## **Advisory Board Co-Chairs**

The board of a school district shall...appoint 2 co-chairs for the advisory board, at least 1 of whom is a parent of a child attending a school operated by the school district.



28

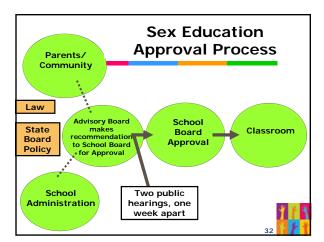




#### **SEAB Meeting Notice**

Members must be given two weeks written or electronic notice of meetings.





#### Advisory Board Responsibilities

- Establish goals and objectives for student knowledge and skills
- Review the materials and methods of instruction used and make recommendations to the board of the school district for implementation
- Evaluate, measure, and report the attainment of program goals and objectives (at least once every 2 years)



#### Sample Goals

Sex Education programs may have many goals:

- Providing accurate information
- Promoting a positive sexual identity
- Increasing communication between youth and trusted
- Equipping young with skills, to maintain positive relationships
- Fostering health behaviors

#### Primary Goal:

Prevent sexual behaviors that may result in negative consequences, such as unplanned pregnancy, unhealthy relationships, or infection

#### **Curriculum Evaluation Tool** П. Is the curriculum Is the curriculum consistent with meeting the **needs** community standards? of students?

**HIV/STD** and Sex Education

III. Is the curriculum consistent with **state** law?

IV. Is the curriculum consistent with research and best practices?

# Consider the Needs of **Students** Teen Pregnancy Rates Student Focus Group Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth

# **Parents**

Why is it Important to Consider Community Standards?

A curriculum is unlikely to be implemented or effective unless it is consistent with what **most** parents want for their children.

# How Do You Assess Community Standards?

Many districts in the state are using the Michigan Department of Education *parent survey*.

7

#### **Model Curricula**



- Michigan has a model health education curriculum that is used by a majority of school districts in Michigan. The HIV & Sex Education modules are separate from the set of health modules.
- In HIV/STD prevention, there are model curricula for:
  - Grades 4-5
  - Grades 7-8 (Growing Up and Staying Healthy)
  - Grades 9-12 (Healthy & Responsible Relationships an HIV & Sex Education curricula)



#### **Local District Choice**

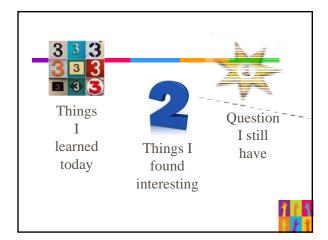
 Districts can choose to adopt, adapt, or disregard the model curriculum and implement commercially or locally developed curricula.



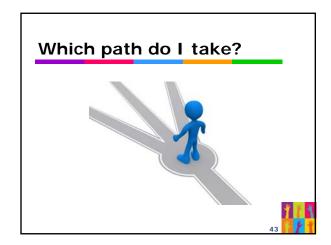
## **Evaluation – 2 Year Report**

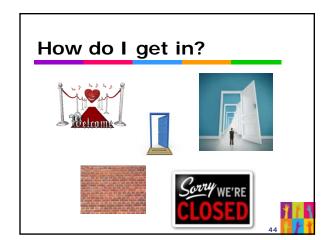
- Collect Pre/Post Assessment
- All building levels or one building level every two years
- Report made public to school/parent community for example:
  - At board meeting and/or
  - Posted on web site













#### Where does my program fit in?

- Choosing The Best
- Real Essentials
- Health Among Teens (P.H.A.T.)



# Choosing the Best Path 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1. Everybody's Talking About It
- 2. The Risks of STDs and HIV/AIDS
- 3. Teen Pregnancy and "Safe Sex"?
- 4. Pressures to Be Sexually Active
- 5. Choosing the Best Path
- 6. Set It! The Need for Boundaries
- 7. Say It! The Need to Speak Up
- 8. Show It! The Need to Be Assertive



# Questions

