



IV. OVERVIEW OF OHIO SEX EDUCATION LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

The following laws and guidelines apply to sex education and how sex education is taught in Ohio:

**According to (effective 2001; 2008 HB7) Ohio Education Title 33^{iv} (as of July 2, 2018)
3313.6011^v**

As used in this section, "sexual activity" means sexual conduct or sexual contact, or both.

Instruction in venereal disease education shall emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is the only protection that is one hundred percent effective against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and the sexual transmission of a virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

The state board of education shall require course material and instruction in venereal disease education courses taught to do all of the following:

- Stress that students should abstain from sexual activity until after marriage;
- Teach the potential physical, psychological, emotional, and social side effects of participating in sexual activity outside of marriage;
- Teach that conceiving children out of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
- Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious possible hazards of sexual activity;
- Advise students of the laws pertaining to financial responsibility of parents to children born in and out of wedlock;
- Advise students of the circumstances under which it is criminal to have sexual contact with a person under the age of sixteen
- Emphasize adoption as an option for unintended pregnancies.

Any model education program for health education the state board of education adopts shall conform to the requirements of this section.

According to the Department of Education - Upon written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be excused from taking instruction in venereal disease education.^{vi}

Age of Majority^{vii} =

Based on Ohio law, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a minor, while those 18 years old and older are considered adults.

Age of Consent^{viii} =

In Ohio, the age when children can legally consent or agree to sex is 16.

OHIO STATE PROFILE

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

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	YES	NO	N/A	LEGISLATIVE CODE
Sex Education Required	X			3313.60, 3313.6011(C)
Sex Education Optional				
If/When Provided, Sexual Education Must:				
Be Medically Accurate*			X	
Be Age Appropriate			X	
Be Evidence-based			X	
Be Culturally Appropriate and Unbiased			X	
Reference/Stress Abstinence**	X			3313.6011(B), 3313.6011(C.1)
Include HIV Education			X	
Be LGBTQ Inclusive		X		3313.6011(C.1, 2, 3)
Include safety against sexual abuse	X			3313.6011(C.6)
Parental Role in Sexual Education:				
Parents must be notified			X	
Parent Involvement			X	
Access to review Curriculum	X			3313.60(G), 3313.212
Opt-In			X	
Opt-Out Option	X			3313.60(A.1.c)

*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.