



KENTUCKY

Kentucky received \$1,515,339 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Kentucky Sexuality Education Law

All Kentucky schools follow the Department of Education's *Program of Studies*, required instruction for students in grades six through twelve. Instruction on human sexuality must focus on abstinence as the only sure means of avoiding unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Kentucky does not have a policy by which parents or guardians are notified or can remove their children from sexuality education classes.

See Kentucky Department of Education's *Program of Studies*.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation related to sexuality education in Kentucky

Events of Note

Controversy Continues Over Gay-Straight Alliance
January 2005; Boyd County, KY

After more than two years of negotiation and a successful lawsuit, the Boyd County Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) ultimately disbanded, but debate over sexual orientation continues.

In October 2002, after twice refusing to allow the club, the Boyd County Parent-Teacher Council voted to allow the GSA to meet at the high school. Their decision came after receiving a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) stating that not allowing the club would be a violation of the Equal Access Act.

Many community members, parents, and students held protests to overturn the decision to allow the club. In response, the Boyd County Board of Education cancelled all non-curricular clubs.

In January 2003, the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the school on behalf of potential GSA members, their parents, and the group's advisor, charging that school officials had permitted many clubs to continue to meet (including the drama club and a Bible club, among others) despite the ban on clubs.

In April 2003, a U.S. District Judge issued a preliminary injunction in favor of the students and ordered the high school to allow the club to meet while the suit was pending. The judge also ordered that the two sides attempt to settle the lawsuit in mediation without going through a full trial.

In February 2004, the school decided to settle the lawsuit. As part of the settlement, the school agreed to allow the GSA to meet and to hold an anti-harassment training with an emphasis on sexual orientation for all district staff as well as middle school and high school students.

In August 2004, teachers and staff in the district took the anti-harassment training. A new debate began, however, when parents complained that a video to be shown in the student training program had a “pro-gay position.”² Many parents threatened to take their children out of school on the day of the training. In fact, as many as one-third of the students skipped the anti-harassment training.

The ACLU says it may return to court in an effort to enforce mandatory training for students who missed it. The litigation director for the ACLU’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Project explained “parents don’t get to say I don’t want you to teach evolution or this, that or whatever else. If parents don’t like it they can home school, they can go to a private school, they can go to a religious school.”³

Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based law group affiliated with several conservative Christian organizations, was enlisted by parents on the other side of the issue and has pledged to sue the school district if it doesn’t adopt an opt-out policy for the training. A lawyer for the group said that “mandatory training on tolerance for homosexuals violates the right of conscience of parents and students who believe such behavior immoral.”⁴

A lawyer for the district, however, disagreed: “students certainly have the right to believe in what they want to believe, but they don’t have the right to act out in inappropriate ways. The point is you don’t treat people disrespectfully, you don’t pick on people, you don’t bully them, you don’t make them afraid to come to school.”⁵

The school superintendent said that the school district is doing the best it can to balance the large divide in the community over the issue. He added that the training may have already had an impact: “we’ve had significantly lower harassment incidents reported. Teachers are much more aware of harassment, even in its minor stages.”⁶ Yet students complain that homophobic slurs are still being hurled at peers in the hallways and classrooms.

In an interesting turn of events, the group whose formation began this debate, the Boyd County High School’s Gay-Straight Alliance, has disbanded. All but one of the original members have graduated and when club membership dwindled, students ultimately stopped meeting. In addition, the teacher-adviser who worked with the group left the school, saying she was made to feel unwelcome at the school as a result of her involvement in this issue.

*Sex Education Pamphlets Removed from Classroom
March 2003; Bullitt County, KY*

A group of parents of fifth-graders were upset when their children brought home a brochure that discussed topics such as masturbation and changes to genitalia during puberty. Parents had signed permission slips for the program but argued that they had not been made aware of everything that would be covered. The parents voiced their opposition and the pamphlet has since been pulled from the Bullitt County Health Department’s school program.

A local ministerial association held a meeting in mid-March to review the pamphlet. The association’s president and a local pastor commented on the pamphlet, saying, “it was just very graphic for young children. You might be talking about ninth- or tenth-graders.”⁷

The Health Department’s education coordinator explained that they have been running the program with these pamphlets in fifth-grade classes, at the request of the individual schools, for

seven years and that this was the first complaint they have ever received. She said the information in the pamphlets came from a program that was approved by the National Association of School Nurses, though the organization did not specify what age group should receive it. Health Department staff agreed to review the pamphlet and look for others that may be more acceptable.

Kentucky's Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁸

- In 2003, 54% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students in Kentucky reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 45% of female high school students and 48% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 4% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Kentucky reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 14% of female high school students and 16% of male high school students in Kentucky reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 42% of female high school students and 35% of male high school students in Kentucky reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 35% of females and 34% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 17% of females and 28% of males in Kentucky reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 30% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 57% of females and 68% of males in Kentucky reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 57% of females and 69% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 18% of females and 17% of males in Kentucky reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 13% of males nationwide.
- In 2003, 6% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Kentucky reported ever having been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant compared to 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2003, 90% of high school students in Kentucky reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 88% of high school students nationwide.

- In 2000, Kentucky’s abortion rate was 8 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁹
- In 2002, Kentucky’s birth rate was 51 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.¹⁰

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Kentucky received \$834,775 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2004. The Title V grant requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match can be provided in part or in full by local groups. Kentucky provides \$250,000 in state funds, the remainder of the match is provided by sub-grantees through both funding and in-kind services. The Kentucky Department of Health Services oversees all Title V funding.

The funding is distributed between 47 sub-grantees and a media campaign. Sub-grantees receive between \$2,500 and \$25,000 and target youth and parents. Nineteen of these sub-grantees are educational agencies that use the *Postponing Sexual Involvement* curricula with sixth grade boys and girls. Fifty percent of funding goes to a media campaign titled *Get A Life First—Wait to Have Sex*. This campaign uses radio, billboards, television, and posters to target youth ages nine to 15. In addition, 2.5 percent of the overall budget is allotted for evaluation. Sub-grantees evaluate their own programs at the end of each grant year and professional evaluators will examine the media campaign.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹¹ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are two SPRANS–CBAE grantees in Kentucky: Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center and New Hope Center Inc. There are no AFLA grantees in Kentucky.

According to their website, “Door of Hope realizes its goals through a *commitment to prayer*, and through being sensitive, obedient and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.”¹²

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Kentucky Department of Health Services www.chs.ky.gov	\$834,775 federal \$250,000 state	Title V
Adair County	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Bath County	\$10,435	Title V sub-grantee

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Butler County	\$20,302	Title V sub-grantee
Carlisle County	\$8,900	Title V sub-grantee
Casey County	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Christian County	\$24,929	Title V sub-grantee
Franklin County	\$2,800	Title V sub-grantee
Hardin County	\$13,998	Title V sub-grantee
Henderson County	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Jessamine County	\$24,930	Title V sub-grantee
Magoffin County	\$24,964	Title V sub-grantee
Meade County	\$4,500	Title V sub-grantee
Ohio County	\$25,000	Title V sub-grantee
Simpson County	\$24,998	Title V sub-grantee
Warren County	\$24,975	Title V sub-grantee
Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center 2004-2007 www.doorofhope.com	\$317,067	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant New Hope Center, Inc. 2002-2005	\$363,497	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Frankfurt, KY 40601
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Kentucky Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Advocates of Planned Parenthood of
Louisville and Western Kentucky
1025 S. 2nd St.
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502) 584-2471

American Civil Liberties Union of
Kentucky
315 Guthrie St., Suite 300
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (502) 581-1181
www.aclu-ky.org

Kentucky Association of Planned
Parenthood Affiliates
258 Red Lick Rd.
Berea, KY 40403
Phone: (606) 986-1650

Religious Coalition for Reproductive
Choice
PO Box 4065
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (502) 585-3050
members.iglou.com/gils/

Kentucky Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Democrats Pro-Life of Kentucky
200 Fenley Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
<http://hometown.aol.com/demolife/>

The Family Foundation of Kentucky
PO Box 22100
Lexington, KY 40522
Phone: (859) 255-5400
www.tffky.org

Kentucky Right to Life Association
134 Breckinridge Ln.
Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 895-5959
www.krla.org

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Newspapers in Kentucky

The Courier-Journal

Arlene Jacobson
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 740031
Louisville, KY 40201
Phone: (502) 582-7147

Daily News

Alyssa Harvey
Medical/Health Editor
813 College St.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Phone: (270) 783-3257

The Gleaner

Wendy Bredhold
Community News Editor
455 Klutey Park Plaza Dr.
Henderson, KY 42420
Phone: (270) 831-8336

The Independent

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The Kentucky Enquirer

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Fort Mitchell, KY 41017
Phone: (859) 578-5555

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Assignment Editor
1618 E. 9th St.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Phone: (270) 886-4444

The News-Enterprise

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408 W. Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
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Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

Sharon Payne
Community News Reporter
1401 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42301
Phone: (270) 691-7309

The Paducah Sun

Leigh Landini Wright
Medical/Health Editor
408 Kentucky Ave.
Paducah, KY 42003
Phone: (270) 575-8658

¹ This refers to the fiscal year for the Federal Government which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² “Boyd School District Moves Ahead with Anti-Discrimination Training Program,” *Associated Press*, 8 June 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis 8 January 2004.

³ Mark Pitsch, “Gay-rights dispute lingers in Boyd schools,” *The Courier-Journal* (KY), 27 November 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis 7 January 2004.

⁴ George Archibald, “Support of Gays Pushed in Schools,” *Washington Times*, 1 December 2004, accessed on Lexis-Nexis 7 January 2004.

⁵ Mark Pitsch.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ T. Holbrook, “Bullitt Agency Withdraws Sex-Education Pamphlets,” *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, KY), 16 March 2003.

⁸ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2003,” *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 53.SS-2 (21 May 2004): 1-95, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>.

⁹ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004) accessed 28 January 2005, <www.guttmacher.org>.

¹⁰ *National Vital Statistics Reports 52.10* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003), 48, accessed 4 February 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm#stat%20tables>>.

¹¹ In FY 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 2005 this funding was moved to HHS’ Administration for Children and Families and is now referred to simply as Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE).

¹² *Mission Statement*, Door of Hope, accessed 10 February 2005, <<http://www.doorofhope.com/mission.htm>>. Emphasis included in original document.