



SIECUS

State Profile

IDAHO

Idaho received no federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.¹

Idaho Sexuality Education Law and Policy

In Idaho, local school boards are charged with the decision of whether or not to offer sexuality education. Idaho law states that the “primary responsibility of family life and sex education” rests with a student’s home and church. If a school board decides to institute sexuality education, the program must place “major emphasis” on the home, family, and church as areas of importance for learning such knowledge. Family is not defined under this statute. School boards must include parents and community groups in all aspects of instituting and evaluating sexuality education programs.

In addition, the program should give youth “the scientific, psychological information for understanding sex and its relation to the miracle of life.” It must also include “knowledge of the power of the sex drive and the necessity of controlling that drive by self-discipline.”

According to the *Idaho Content Standards of Health*, by the end of the 12th grade, students should be able to “assess the consequences of sexual activity (unplanned pregnancy, STDs, emotional distress).”

Parents or guardians wishing to excuse their children from sexuality education must file a written request to the school board. The school board will then supply the parent with necessary forms to remove the child from the class. This is referred to as an “opt-out” policy.

See Idaho Statutes 33-1608, 33-1609, 33-1610, 33-1611, and *Idaho Content Standards of Health*.

Recent Legislation

SIECUS is not aware of any recent legislation regarding sexuality education in Idaho.

Idaho’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 42% of female high school students and 42% of male high school students in Idaho reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 4% of female high school students and 7% of male high school students in Idaho 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 2007, 82% of high school students in Idaho reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding

- Idaho was eligible for \$208,264 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.
- The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grant requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match may be provided in part or in full by local groups.
- Idaho, however, chose not to apply for these funds due to the extraordinary restrictions placed upon how the money must be spent. Therefore, the state does not match funds nor does it have organizations supported by this type of federal money.

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

- There are no CBAE or AFLA grantees in Idaho.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2008

Idaho did not receive abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2008.

Adolescent Health Contact³

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Department of Health and Welfare
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Idaho Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Idaho
P.O. Box 1897
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: (208) 344-9750
www.acluidaho.org

Idaho Women's Network
P.O. Box 1385
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: (208) 344-5738
www.idahowomensnetwork.org

Planned Parenthood of Idaho
1109 Main Street, Suite 500
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 376-2277
www.plannedparenthood.org/idaho

Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest
123 E. Indiana Avenue, Suite 100
Spokane, WA 99207
Phone: (800) 788-9128
www.ppinw.org

Idaho Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Grapevine Publications
P.O. Box 884
Boise, ID 83711
www.grapevinepublications.com

Pregnancy Care Center
2020 12th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501
Phone: (208) 746-9704
www.lctoday.net/nonprofit/pcc.htm

Newspapers in Idaho⁴

Coeur d'Alene Press
Newsroom
201 N. 2nd Street
Coeur D Alene, ID 8381
Phone: (208) 664-8176
www.cdapress.com

Idaho Press-Tribune
Newsroom
1618 N. Midland Boulevard
Nampa, ID 83651
Phone: (208) 465-8124
www.idahopress.com

Idaho State Journal
Newsroom
305 S. Arthur Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83204
Phone: (208) 232-4161
www.journalnet.com

The Idaho Statesman
Newsroom
1200 N. Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706
Phone: (208) 377-6400
www.idahostatesmen.com

¹ This refers to the federal government's fiscal year, 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 2008 began on October 1, 2007 and ended on September 30, 2008.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 57.SS-4 (6 June 2008), accessed 4 June 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>. Note: Idaho did not participate in the full YRBS.

³ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

⁴ This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means exhaustive and does not contain the local level newspapers which are integral to getting your message out to your community. SIECUS strongly urges you to follow stories about the issues that concern you on the national, state, and local level by using an internet news alert service such as [Google alerts](#), becoming an avid reader of your local papers, and establishing relationships with reporters who cover your issues. For more information on how to achieve your media goals visit the SIECUS [Community Action Kit](#).