

The SIECUS State Profiles



ARIZONA

ARIZONA'S SEX ED SNAPSHOT

THE STATE OF SEX EDUCATION

Advocates have actively worked to advance sex education in Arizona and to defeat restrictive legislation over the past five years. This year, advocates are contending with the introduction of competing legislation designed to advance and restrict access to sex education statewide. [Senate Bill 1120](#), introduced by Senator Victoria Steele, aims to change Arizona's "[opt-in](#)" policy to an "[opt-out](#)" policy and to require each school to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education that includes topics such as consent, discussion of communities that have historically been vulnerable to sexual abuse, healthy relationships, and methods of contraception.

Alternatively, [Senate Bill 1082](#), introduced by Senator Sylvia Allen, aims to further restrict sex education by further defining the responsibility of parents to provide written permission for their children to participate in sex education instruction and outlining a course of action if a parent or guardian believes their child's school is not complying with state statute. The bill prevents students in grades 1-6 from participating in sex education. For students who do participate in the instruction, the bill requires curriculum to promote a return to abstinence for sexually active young people and emphasize abstinence. This bill also prohibits curriculum that depicts nudity or sexual activity, normalizes sexual activity between minors, or suggests that any type of sexual activity is safe or risk free. Under the current version of the bill, Section 13-3501 is amended to remove "homosexuality" from the definition of sexual conduct, a deeply concerning action that may threaten the inclusion of important topics relevant to the health of LGBTQ young people. While Senator Allen has [pulled the provision](#), the most recent version still contains the amendment and has yet to reflect this change. The Senate Committee on Education [canceled](#) a hearing for the bill, signaling the likely end of the legislation's progress. Advocates, including SIECUS, continue to speak out and fight back against this harmful bill.

In 2019, a multi-year advocacy campaign aided in [repealing](#) the state's "no promo homo" legislation that barred educators from discussing homosexuality in a positive manner, demonstrating a monumental step forward for providing Arizona's young people with inclusive instruction. Also in 2019, the Arizona Board of Education held a meeting to discuss making additional changes to Arizona's sex education guidelines, but ultimately decided against updating the guidelines after intense debate dominated the meeting. Attendees included parents and legislators who had varying opinions about the state making additional amendments to the guidelines.

Advocates have also taken action at the local level to improve access to more comprehensive instruction. In 2015, the Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services, Planned Parenthood Arizona, Sunnyside Unified School District, and Child & Family Resources came together to form the Tucson Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition. The group was awarded \$4.3 million to implement and provide sex education in the Sunnyside Unified School District in Tucson.

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Student activists in the VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapter at the University of Arizona, now known as the UA Planned Parenthood Generation Action, [mobilized in 2016](#) to advocate for improved sex education in the Tucson Unified School District. Many members were alumni of the school district and reported receiving unsatisfactory instruction. While advocates have been successful in advancing sex education across Arizona, significant efforts to undermine the importance of comprehensive sex education continue. Some state legislators have hosted town halls on the purported “role of sex education in sexualizing children,” and some parents have formed the opposition group, “Purple for Parents,” to protest efforts to advance sex education.

Because Arizona schools are not required to provide sex education to students, school districts are left to decide what type of sex education—if any at all— they provide to youth. Arizona’s [“opt-in”](#) policy also presents an unnecessary barrier to receiving sex education. Because of the lack of structure surrounding curriculum, advocates report that the quality of sex education varies widely by district, ranging from comprehensive instruction to no instruction at all.

Mandating local control over sex education presents unique challenges that have resulted in a glaring disparity regarding the quality of sex education that students receive. Such discretion allows for the implementation of policies and curriculum that stigmatize marginalized youth, such as students of color and LGBTQ youth, and presents further challenges in ensuring that low income districts have access to the resources needed to implement comprehensive sex education. One [2015 study](#) found that Native people in Arizona experience higher rates of adverse health outcomes compared to non-native people, demonstrating a critical need for curriculum that is culturally responsive to the needs of young people of color, and Native youth in particular.

Organizations such as Planned Parenthood of Arizona have attempted to address the current gaps in sex education instruction by offering support and training for educators interested in implementing comprehensive programs in their schools through their [SHARE](#) (Sexual Health and Responsible Education) initiative.

Right now, advocates can take action to ensure young people in their community have access to quality sex education. Particularly, advocates can invest in local school board races to elect strong advocates for comprehensive sex education. In addition, they can build coalitions to advance positive narratives about sex education that center Native youth and push for a statewide opt-out policy. Advocates can also contact their local school board to determine what topics are missing from sex education instruction, such as instruction on consent, sexual orientation and gender identity, and contraceptives. They can then vocalize the important need for advancing instruction requirements in their community. Further, advocates can contact their representatives to discuss the critical need for advancing comprehensive sex education requirements and allocating additional funding to support districts in implementing more advanced curriculum. Advocates are encouraged to use the SIECUS [Community Action Toolkit](#) to guide local efforts.

STATE SEX EDUCATION POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

- Arizona schools are **not** required to teach sex education or HIV education.
 - If a school chooses to teach sex education, it must stress abstinence.
- If sex education is offered, curriculum is not required to include instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- If sex education is offered, curriculum is not required to include instruction on consent.
- Parents or guardians must provide written permission for their children to participate in sex education. [This is referred to as an “opt-in” policy.](#)
- If sex education is offered, curriculum must be medically accurate.

STATE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

This section highlights sex education bills that were introduced during the 2019 state legislative session as well as bills that have been introduced thus far in 2020. These proposed bills provide a brief overview of both recent and current legislative action taken to advance or restrict sex education. For a more comprehensive look at relevant legislation concerning sex education and related topics such as reproductive health care, LGBTQ rights, and HIV/AIDS, continue reading on to the “State Legislative Activity” section of Arizona’s profile.

2020 Legislative Session

[House Bill 2067](#) (pending):

- Aims to require all school districts to provide medically accurate, comprehensive sex education. If successful, will also replace Arizona’s [“opt-in” policy with an “opt out”](#) policy.

[House Bill 2277](#) (pending):

- Aims to require all school districts and charter schools to provide medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education instruction that includes instruction on consent, healthy relationships, and populations that historically have been more vulnerable to sexual abuse and assault, including LGBTQ individuals and people with disabilities. If successful, will also replace Arizona’s “opt-in” policy with an “opt out” policy.

[House Bill 2658](#) (pending):

- Aims to prohibit schools from providing sex education prior to 5th grade and requires parents and guardians to provide their consent for their children to participate in instruction on AIDS. This is known as an “opt-in” policy.

[Senate Bill 1082](#) (pending):

- Aims to further define the responsibility of parents in providing consent for their children to participate in sex education, prohibits students in grades 1-6 from participating in sex education, and requires sex education to emphasize abstinence. If successful, this bill will prohibit the inclusion of curriculum that depicts nudity or sexual activity, normalizes sexual activity between minors, or suggests that any type of sexual activity is safe or risk free.

Senate Bill 1120 (pending):

- Aims to replace Arizona’s [“opt-in” policy with an “opt-out” policy](#) and requires schools to provide age-appropriate and medically accurate sex education that includes instruction on topics such as consent, contraceptives, and healthy relationships.

2019 Legislative Session

Senate Bill 1346 (passed):

- Removed discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ language from Arizona’s sex education statute.

Senate Bill 1252 (failed):

- Sought to require all school districts to provide medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education that included curriculum on healthy relationships, consent, and contraceptives. Would have replaced Arizona’s parental [“opt-in” policy with an “opt out” policy](#) and prohibited discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

MORE ON SEX ED IN ARIZONA

STATE LAW

Arizona law does not require schools to teach sex education or HIV education. However, [Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 15-711, 15-716, and 15-102](#) state that if a school chooses to teach these topics, instruction must be age-appropriate, include instruction on the laws relating to sexual conduct with a minor (grades 7-12), and stress abstinence. Further, if a school chooses to teach HIV education, such instruction must be medically accurate.

[Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-303](#) states that schools may “provide a specific elective lesson or lessons concerning sex education as a supplement to the health course of study.” Schools that choose to provide sex education must have the lessons approved by the school’s local governing board. All sex education materials and instruction that discuss sexual intercourse must:

- i) Stress that pupils should abstain from sexual intercourse until they are mature adults;
- ii) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only method for avoiding pregnancy that is 100% effective;
- iii) Stress that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have severe consequences and constitute a serious and widespread public health problem;
- iv) Include a discussion of the possible emotional and psychological consequences of pre-adolescent and adolescent sexual intercourse and the consequences of pre-adolescent and adolescent pregnancy;
- v) Promote honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage; and
- vi) Advise pupils of Arizona law pertaining to the financial responsibilities of parenting and legal liabilities related to sexual intercourse with a minor.

In Arizona, parents or guardians must provide written permission for the child to participate in sex education. [This is referred to as an “opt-in” policy.](#)

STATE STANDARDS

Arizona has [Health Education Standards](#) in place that provide a foundation for curricula in the state for grades K-12. Although concepts related to sexuality are not specifically mentioned in the standards, “disease prevention” is included.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

State legislative activity related to sex education does not take place in isolation from the broader embroiled political and policy climate. Attacks on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) individuals, and efforts to limit access to abortion care and other reproductive health care services prevent students from receiving comprehensive sex education and accessing sexual and reproductive health care services. Below are highlights of current legislative activity related to these topics.

2020 SESSION: CONVENED JANUARY 13, 2020

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HOUSE BILL 2067	REQUIRES ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE MEDICALLY ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION. IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL ALSO REPLACE ARIZONA’S “OPT-IN” POLICY WITH AN “OPT OUT” POLICY.	INTRODUCED
House Bill 2277	REQUIRES ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND AGE-APPROPRIATE SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION THAT INCLUDES INSTRUCTION ON CONSENT, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, AND POPULATIONS THAT HISTORICALLY HAVE BEEN MORE VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT, INCLUDING LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL ALSO REPLACE ARIZONA’S “OPT-IN” POLICY WITH AN “OPT OUT” POLICY.	INTRODUCED
HOUSE BILL 2658	PROHIBITS SCHOOLS FROM PROVIDING SEX EDUCATION PRIOR TO 5TH GRADE AND REQUIRES PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO PROVIDE THEIR CONSENT FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN INSTRUCTION ON AIDS. THIS IS REFERRED TO AS AN “OPT-IN” POLICY.	INTRODUCED
SENATE BILL 1082	FURTHER DEFINES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION AND PREVENTS STUDENTS IN FIRST THROUGH SIXTH GRADE FROM PARTICIPATING IN SEX EDUCATION. FURTHER, THE BILL PROMOTES THE RETURN TO ABSTINENCE FOR SEXUALLY ACTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE, EMPHASIZES ABSTINENCE, AND PROHIBITS CURRICULUM THAT DEPICTS NUDITY OR SEXUAL ACTIVITY, NORMALIZES SEXUAL ACTIVITY BETWEEN MINORS, OR SUGGESTS THAT ANY TYPE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY IS SAFE OR RISK FREE. DETAILS THE	INTRODUCED

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	ACTIONS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHOULD TAKE IF THEY BELIEVE THEIR CHILDREN’S SCHOOL HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE OUTLINED PROVISIONS.	
SENATE BILL 1120	ENACTS A PARENTAL “OPT-OUT” POLICY AND REQUIRES EACH SCHOOL TO PROVIDE AGE APPROPRIATE AND MEDICALLY ACCURATE SEX EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, INSTRUCTION ON CONSENT, DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL ABUSE INCLUDING LBGTQ AND DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, AND METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION.	INTRODUCED

2019 SESSION: ADJOURNED MAY 28, 2019

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HOUSE BILL 2457	AMENDS ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES TO REMOVE LANGUAGE THAT PROHIBITS SCHOOLS DISTRICTS FROM POSITIVELY PORTRAYING SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS OUTSIDE OF HETEROSEXUAL IDENTITY IN SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM.	DIED IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
HOUSE BILL 2578	ESTABLISHES THE RIGHT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO OPT THEIR CHILDREN OUT OF SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND REQUIRES SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM BE MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE. ESTABLISHES THE ABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ON SUGGESTED COURSES OF STUDY AND TEACHER TRAINING.	DIED IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
HOUSE BILL 2658	DECLARES IT IS AN ACT OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR A PSYCHOTHERAPIST TO PROVIDE ANY CONVERSION THERAPY TO A MINOR. THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE APPROPRIATE HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATORY BOARD IN FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS CLAUSE. A HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATORY BOARD MAY NOT AUTHORIZE A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.	DIED IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
HOUSE BILL 2696	REMOVES MINIMUM EQUIPMENT STANDARDS FOR ABORTION CLINICS PERFORMING OR INDUCING ABORTIONS AT TWENTY WEEKS OR LATER. REMOVES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE VIABILITY OF A FETUS OR EMBRYO AFTER AN ATTEMPTED ABORTION.	DIED IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
HOUSE BILL 2739	REMOVES THE ABILITY OF PARENTS TO OPT THEIR CHILDREN OUT OF INSTRUCTION ON AIDS. REQUIRES EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ADOPT AN AGE-	DIED IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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	APPROPRIATE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM THAT INCLUDES INSTRUCTION ON RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION, AND CONSENT AND COERCION.	
SENATE BILL 1047	DECLARES IT IS AN ACT OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR A PSYCHOTHERAPIST TO PROVIDE ANY CONVERSION THERAPY TO A MINOR. THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE APPROPRIATE HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATORY BOARD IN FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS CLAUSE. A HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATORY BOARD MAY NOT AUTHORIZE A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION
SENATE BILL 1120	REQUIRES PHYSICIANS OR COUNSELORS WHO PROVIDE PREGNANCY INFORMATION AND COUNSELING TO MINORS TO EXPLAIN IN AN OBJECTIVE MANNER THAT IS NOT INTENDED TO COERCE, PERSUADE, OR INDUCE THE MINOR TO CHOOSE TO EITHER HAVE AN ABORTION OR CARRY THE PREGNANCY TO TERM, EXPLAIN THAT THE MINOR MAY WITHDRAW THEIR DECISION TO HAVE AN ABORTION, CLEARLY AND FULLY EXPLORE WITH THE MINOR ALL PREGNANCY OUTCOMES, DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING THE MINOR'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBER, AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MINOR TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PREGNANCY, ABORTION, CHILD CARE, OR ADOPTION.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION
SENATE BILL 1121	ESTABLISHES THAT PARENTAL CONSENT OR JUDICIAL AUTHORIZATION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR A PHYSICIAN TO PERFORM AN ABORTION ON A PREGNANT EMANCIPATED MINOR IF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN RECEIVES THE INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE MINOR AND DETERMINES THAT THE MINOR IS MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY COMPETENT TO GIVE CONSENT. THE PHYSICIAN MUST INFORM THE MINOR IN A MANNER THAT IN THE PHYSICIAN'S PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT IS NOT MISLEADING AND THAT THE MINOR WILL UNDERSTAND, AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: ACCORDING TO THE PHYSICIAN'S BEST JUDGEMENT THE MINOR IS PREGNANT, THE NUMBER OF WEEKS OF DURATION OF THE PREGNANCY, THE PARTICULAR RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINOR'S PREGNANCY AND THE ABORTION TECHNIQUE THAT MAY BE PERFORMED.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION
SENATE BILL 1251	REQUIRES SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS BEGINNING IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR TO	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION

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	ESTABLISH EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION FOR EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES AND CURRICULA DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.	
SENATE BILL 1252	ALLOWS SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION TO A STUDENT UNLESS THE STUDENT'S PARENTS OR GUARDIANS PROVIDE WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR THE CHILD TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION. REQUIRES ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-12 THAT IS MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND AGE APPROPRIATE. CURRICULUM MUST HELP PUPILS DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS TO FORM HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CONSENT, STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVELY USING CONTRACEPTIVES AND BARRIER METHODS, HELP STUDENTS GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES OF ADOLESCENCE AND THE STATES OF HUMAN MATURATION, INCLUDING HOW PREGNANCY OCCURS, HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING AND STRESS MANAGEMENT SKILLS, AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ABOUT SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS. SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION MUST NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEX, RACE, ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY. SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST MAKE SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM AVAILABLE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION
SENATE BILL 1346	AMENDS ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES TO REMOVE LANGUAGE THAT PROHIBITS SCHOOLS DISTRICTS FROM POSITIVELY PORTRAYING SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS OUTSIDE OF HETEROSEXUAL IDENTITY IN SEX EDUCATION CURRICULUM.	ENACTED
SENATE BILL 1387	REQUIRES BASIC TEXTBOOKS SELECTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD TO INCLUDE FAIR, ACCURATE, INCLUSIVE AND RESPECTFUL REPRESENTATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WHO ARE LGBT.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION
SENATE BILL 1415	REMOVES LANGUAGE THAT PROHIBITS SCHOOLS DISTRICTS FROM POSITIVELY PORTRAYING SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS OUTSIDE OF HETEROSEXUAL IDENTITY.	FAILED TO PASS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION

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<p>SENATE BILL 1455</p>	<p>REMOVES PHARMACIES AS AN ENTITY THAT CAN STATE IN WRITING AN OBJECTION TO ABORTION, ABORTION MEDICATION, EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION OR ANY MEDICATION OR DEVICE INTENDED TO INHIBIT OR PREVENT PREGNANCY ON MORAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUNDS TO NOT BE REQUIRED TO FACILITATE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PROVISION OF AN ABORTION, ABORTION MEDICATION, EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION, OR ANY MEDICATION OR DEVICE INTENDED TO INHIBIT OR PREVENT PREGNANCY.</p>	<p>DIED IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES</p>
<p>SENATE BILL 1459</p>	<p>REQUIRES EACH SCHOOL TO PROVIDE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WITH A DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE CURRICULUM THAT WILL BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL, ALONG WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL PUPIL READING MATERIALS. PARENTS MUST SIGN A FORM ACKNOWLEDGING THEY HAVE RECEIVED THIS CURRICULUM INFORMATION.</p>	<p>DIED IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION</p>

LEGISLATIVE KEY

<p>SEX EDUCATION REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY HIV/AIDS (THAT IMPACTS YOUTH)</p>

YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH DATA

Young people are more than their health behaviors and outcomes. While data can be a powerful tool to demonstrate the sex education and sexual health care needs of young people, it is important to be mindful that these behaviors and outcomes are impacted by systemic inequities present in our society that affect an individual’s sexual health and well-being. To learn more about Arizona’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results, [click here](#).

ARIZONA SCHOOL HEALTH PROFILES DATA

In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the School Health Profiles, which measure school health policies and practices and highlight which health topics were taught in schools across the country. Since the data were collected from self-administered questionnaires completed by schools’ principals and lead health education teachers, the CDC notes that one limitation of the School Health Profiles is bias toward the reporting of more positive policies and

practices. In the School Health Profiles, the [CDC identifies 20 sexual health education topics](#) as critical for ensuring a young person's sexual health.

Arizona did not participate in the 2018 School Health Profiles.

Below are key instruction highlights for secondary schools in Arizona as [reported](#) for the 2015–2016 school year. In this edition of the School Health Profiles, the CDC identified 19 sexual health education topics and has since updated the number of topics to 20.

Reported teaching all 19 critical sexual health education topics

- 5.1% of Arizona secondary schools taught students all 19 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 14.5% of Arizona secondary schools taught students all 19 critical sexual health education topics in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching about the benefits of being sexually abstinent

- 17.7% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 41.6% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about the benefits of being sexually abstinent in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy

- 13.3% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 36.2% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to access valid and reliable information, products, and services related to HIV, other STDs, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships

- 17.7% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 44.5% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to create and sustain healthy and respectful relationships in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health

- 10.8% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 34.7% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about preventive care that is necessary to maintain reproductive and sexual health in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching how to correctly use a condom

- 6.1% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 22.5% of Arizona secondary schools taught students how to correctly use a condom in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching about methods of contraception other than condoms

- 7.2% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about methods of contraception other than condoms in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 35.9% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about methods of contraception other than condoms in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching about sexual orientation

- 8.9% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about sexual orientation in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 27.5% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about sexual orientation in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported teaching about gender roles, gender identity, or gender expression

- 10.2% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about gender roles, gender identity, or gender expression in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 28.5% of Arizona secondary schools taught students about gender roles, gender identity, or gender expression in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Reported providing curricula or supplementary materials relevant to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth

- 20.2% of Arizona secondary schools provided students with curricula or supplementary materials that included HIV, STD, or pregnancy prevention information relevant to LGBTQ youth.

Visit the CDC's [School Health Profiles](#) report for additional information on school health policies and practices.

The quality of sex education taught often reflects funding available for sex education programs.

To learn more about federal funding streams, [click here](#).