

Sex Education Curriculum Mandates: 2022

What is the legislation, and when did it become active?

Two bills signed August 20, 2021, update Illinois' sex education standards in K-12 schools. We are already in full compliance with the mandates of the House bill.

1. [House Bill 24](#):
 - Grades 6-12: Sex education instruction must include age-appropriate discussion of "sexting," the importance of internet safety, the identification of support personnel in schools or community who can help, and strategies for resisting peer pressure.
2. [Senate Bill 818](#):
 - Grades 6-12: Comprehensive sex education must utilize standards-based instruction.
 - Grades K-5: ISBE developed resources and materials in August 2022 that promote age- and developmentally-appropriate instruction for school implementation in 2022-2023.

What are we doing right now for sex education?

- Our elementary curriculum does not currently include any sex education instruction.
- Our middle school curriculum currently includes the following topics for sex education:
 - Physical health: characteristics of puberty, the changes associated with puberty, and the effects of these changes on physical, mental, and social development.
 - Social health: safety precautions when using the internet and social media, peer pressure, "sexting," and identifying toxic relationships like sexual abuse, bullying/cyberbullying, and harassment.
- Our high school health curriculum currently includes the following topics for sex education:
 - Sexual health: reproductive systems, sexually transmitted diseases, conception and the fertility cycle, pregnancy, and childbirth.
 - Social health: toxic dating relationships, assault, date rape and drugs, "sexting," bullying/cyberbullying, and teen pregnancy.
- No parts of our health curriculum currently include the following topics for sex education: gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and identity, and types of intercourse.

Will RPS 205 'opt out' of comprehensive sexual education?

The district will continue to offer comprehensive sexual education as described above. Additionally, we have identified a number of curriculum revisions required to align with state and [national standards](#), but must ensure they are age- and developmentally-appropriate before implementation by 2024. It is important to note that the Illinois State Board of Education grants local control to the district to determine the topics, timing, and modes of instruction for standards-aligned content. You can read more about this in the [ISBE FAQ](#) published in August of 2022, specifically question number 7.

What options do parents and families have?

SB818 establishes an opt-out opportunity for parents and guardians. No student is required to participate in sexual health education, and refusal to participate may not be a reason for disciplinary action, academic penalty, suspension, expulsion, or any other sanction of a student. Our [existing process for curriculum objection](#)s will provide parents and guardians with that option, and help ensure that teachers coordinate alternative learning in those instances.