



Sexual Health Education in Louisiana

Louisiana Sex Education Law

Louisiana State Law defines sex education as: “the dissemination of factual biological or pathological information that is related to the human reproduction system and may include the study of sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, childbirth, puberty, menstruation, and menopause, as well as... parental responsibilities.” **Louisiana does not require instruction in sexual health education at any grade level, but does allow sexual health education to be taught in grades 7–12. Sexual health education must emphasize abstinence, but can also include other risk reduction methods, such as contraception and condoms.**

The emphasis of sexual health education instruction “shall be to encourage sexual abstinence between unmarried persons,” including the following aspects:

- Abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage is the expected standard for all school-age children.
- Abstinence from sexual activity is a way to avoid unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and other associated health problems.
- Each student has the power to control personal behavior, and sexual health education instruction should encourage students to base action on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

Sexual health education cannot:

- Include religious beliefs, practices in human sexuality, nor the subjective moral and ethical judgments of the instructor or other persons.
- Test, quiz, or survey students about their personal or family beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion.
- Distribute any contraceptive or abortifacient drug, device, or other similar product at any public school.
- Utilize any sexually explicit materials depicting male or female homosexual activity.
- In any way counsel or advocate abortion.

For more information on how to bring age-appropriate sexual health education to your school, please contact School Health Connection at schoolhealth@lphi.org or (504) 301-9800.

