



The SEAC Position on SB 5395

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), people with disabilities are victimized by crime at higher rates than the rest of the population. People with disabilities are sexually assaulted at nearly three times the rate of people without disabilities.

Currently, it is unknown how many of Washington's Local Education Agencies (LEAs) implement a comprehensive sexual health education that is inclusive of all students. Washington ranks 44th for inclusion of students with disabilities in general education settings and as a result, there is a population of students who have no access to any sexual health education whatsoever. Research supports that students who have access to sexual education experience a reduced risk of sexual violence. The sexual education curriculum should include areas focusing on self-advocacy, refusal skills, and affirmative consent.

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports SB 5395 and companion HB 1407 and any other acts requiring comprehensive sexual health education that is consistent with the Washington state health and physical education K-12 learning standards and that requires affirmative consent curriculum; and amending RCW 28A.300.475.

These acts require curriculum that is evidence-informed, medically and scientifically accurate, developmentally and age appropriate and most importantly - inclusive of all students regardless of their protected class status under chapter 49.60 RCW. These acts amend the current Healthy Youth Act with an additional focus on consent, sexual violence prevention and healthy relationships which benefit all students.

(Santelli et.al, 2018)

Santelli, J. S., Grilo, S. A., Choo, T.-H., Diaz, G., Walsh, K., Wall, M., ... Mellins, C. A. (2018). Does sex education before college protect students from sexual assault in college? *PLoS ONE*, 13(11), 1–18. <https://doi-org.access-proxy.sno-isle.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0205951>

Other Resources:

OSP–Special Education–SEAC:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/SEAC/default.aspx>

SEAC Email: SEAC@k12.wa.us

OSPI–Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/waOSPI>

OSPI–Twitter: <https://twitter.com/waOSPI>

OSPI-Special Education: 360-725-6075