

Page 1

The Washington legislature directed OSPI to convene a workgroup to discuss and make recommendations regarding sexual health education in Washington's K-12 schools. The workgroup must review current sexual health education data, statutes, standards, and instruction and consider the merits and challenges associated with requiring all schools to offer comprehensive sexual health education in grades K-12. A report is due to the legislature by Dec. 1, 2019.

We are inviting comments from the public through Sept. 22, 2019, to help inform the work of the workgroup.

Please provide the following information to help us understand your responses:

1. Age:

18 and younger

19-30

31-50

51-70

71 and older

Prefer not to answer

2. Gender

Female

Male

Transgender

Non-binary

Questioning

Not sure

Something else fits better

Prefer not to answer

3. Residence

Northeast Washington

Northwest Washington

Puget Sound Region

Southwest Washington

Southeast Washington

Central Washington

Outside Washington state

4. Check all that apply

K-12 student

Parent of K-12 Student, in public school

Parent of K-12 Student, in private school

Parent of K-12 Student, in home-schooled

Parent of former K-12 Student

Educator, public school

Educator, private school

School Administrator

School board member, elected

Other

Prefer not to answer

Purpose:

The Washington legislature is considering whether or not to require all schools in the state to provide comprehensive sexual health education in grades K-12.

Background:

According to current statutes, only HIV and STD prevention education are required to be taught (RCW 28A.230.070 and RCW 28A.230.020). Any additional sexual health education provided in public schools, including instructional materials and guest speakers, must meet the Washington State requirements detailed in the Healthy Youth Act (RCW 28A.300.475) and Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention (2005 Guidelines).

What is Comprehensive Sexual Health Education?

Comprehensive sexual health education, as defined in the 2005 Guidelines, includes age-appropriate and medically accurate instruction on sexual anatomy and physiology, growth and development, abstinence, STDs, contraceptives, recognizing and respecting people with differing personal and family values, healthy relationships, avoiding exploitative or manipulative relationships, healthy self-esteem, positive body image, good self-care, respect for others, caring for family and friends, and sexuality as a lifelong learning process. Instruction must be appropriate for all students regardless of gender, race, disability status or sexual orientation. Sexual health education must encourage communication with parents/guardians and other trusted adults, and must encourage community support and reinforcement of key messages by other adults and information sources.

Comprehensive sexual health education also must include skill development consistent with the Health Education K-12 Learning Standards:

- Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Now we want to hear from you!

Responses provided through Sept. 22 will be shared with the Sexual Health Education Workgroup.

5. Should comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically, accurate sexual health education be required for all students in grades K-12?

Yes

No

Not sure

Comments

6. Are changes needed to current statutes related to sexual health education (e.g. Healthy Youth Act, AIDS Omnibus Act)?

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, please explain

Page 3

7. Please describe the benefits associated with requiring all public schools to offer comprehensive sexual health education to students in all grades
8. Please describe the challenges associated with requiring all public schools to offer comprehensive sexual health education to students in all grades
9. How familiar are you with the Washington State K-12 Learning Standards?

Very

Some

Hardly

Not at all

Page 4

Thank you!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us and will be shared with the Sexual Health Education Workgroup. For more information, please see the Sexual Health Education Workgroup webpage.