

# Comprehensive Sex Education In Georgia



Georgia is one of the many states that emphasizes abstinence-based sexual education in public schools, despite the abundance of research that such methods are ineffective in preventing teen pregnancy rates and delaying sex among teenagers.

## Abstinence based sex education is ineffective.

Empirical studies show that in states with abstinence education, there was no overall effect on adolescent birth rates, and these states actually experienced an increase in adolescent birth rates. Further, abstinence-only programs do not affect the incidence of pregnancy, HIV, or other STIs in adolescents.

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## Comprehensive sex education is supported by a growing body of research.

Research shows that teens who receive comprehensive sex education were 50% less likely to experience pregnancy than those who received abstinence-only education. These programs have also been effective in delaying sexual initiation, reducing the frequency of sex, and discouraging unprotected sex among adolescents.

## Comprehensive sex education has a number of benefits.

Comprehensive sex education includes conversations on a broad range of topics that have been shown to increase healthy communication skills, support social-emotional learning, and promote the development of healthy relationships.

## Abstinence based sex education disproportionately impacts Black youth and LGBTQIA+ teens.

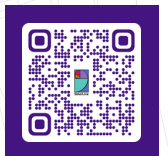
Systemic racism, structural inequalities, and health disparities exacerbate the need for comprehensive sex education among Black youth. Compared to their white counterparts, Black teens consistently experience higher pregnancy rates, increased STI infection, and exposure to HIV.

Additionally, abstinence based sex education is heteronormative, and often frames homosexual experiences as deviant. Stigmatizing LGBTQ students increases their risks for a number of complications, including HIV infection, substance use disorders, suicide, and experiencing violence.

Georgia would join a number of other states by requiring comprehensive sex education in public schools, including California, New Jersey, Oregon, and New Mexico.

## Prominent examples include

- **The California Education Code § 51930–51939 (“California Healthy Youth Act”)** mandates comprehensive sexuality education in both middle and high school. Provides for discussions of abstinence, but not in isolation. Also requires discussion of same sex relationships and sexual behaviors.
- **The Oregon Revised Statutes 336.035, 336.455, 336.465**, enacted in 2019, requires comprehensive sex education in grades K-12 that is medically accurate and includes instruction on consent. Additionally, curriculums must recognize different sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expression.



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