



HEALTHY YOUTH ACT

PLEASE SUPPORT SD.1777/HD.947

Passing the Healthy Youth Act will expand the reach and positive impact of DESE's new Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework, which includes updated standards for sex education and was *unanimously* approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2023.

While the updated Framework is a significant step forward, the Healthy Youth Act is needed to:



Collect data on sexual health education taught in schools. Currently, the state doesn't track which districts teach sex education, which curricula they use, or how many students receive this type of education. Collecting this data, like we do for other essential subjects like literacy and math, will help improve student outcomes.



Ensure routine updates to the Framework. Until 2023, the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Framework hadn't been updated since 1999. Students and teachers deserve consistent access to high-quality curricula standards for health education and shouldn't have to wait another 24 years or more before the next Framework update.



Remove ineffective and harmful education from our schools. Any sex education taught in our schools must meet the minimum standards outlined in the Framework. This means that if a district chooses to teach sex education, it has to be medically accurate, age appropriate, and LGBTQ-inclusive. This will remove abstinence-only education from our classrooms while supporting the decision to remain abstinent.

More than 30 years of research shows that sex education works!

Sex education delays the initiation of sex, reduces pregnancies and STIs, helps young people develop healthy relationships, prevents dating violence and sexual abuse, improves media literacy, and improves academic outcomes.

MASSACHUSETTS YOUNG PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER:

- In 2021, 42% of sexually active teens in MA did not use a condom the last time they had sex
- Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in MA increased from 2020-2023
- Nearly 10% of MA teens experienced sexual dating violence in 2021, up from 6% in 2019
- Significant racial/ethnic and geographic disparities in teen birth rates persist
 - The Hispanic teen birth rate is 10x higher than the White Non-Hispanic teen birth rate
 - 20 of the 25 municipalities with the highest teen birth rates in 2022 were Gateway Cities

Sponsored by Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Rep. Jim O'Day, & Rep. Vanna Howard

HEALTHY YOUTH ACT

COALITION MEMBERS



Jane Doe Inc.
The Massachusetts Coalition
Against Sexual Assault and
Domestic Violence



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