

# NJ Department of ~~Education~~ Intimidation



## Initial effort to urge implementation of standards

May

<https://www.njedreport.com/2022/05/04/sex-ed-wars-continue-at-todays-state-board-of-education-meeting/>

I want to be emphatically clear," she noted. "The DOE has positive relationships with [local school districts]. We're going to work with them to make sure they implement the standards in a comfortable way." She referred to the district accountability rubric called QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) and said, "if a district is not meeting the mark, we'll convey that information to the district." **"At worst, a district would lose a few points" on their QSAC score.** *Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed. D. Acting Commissioner. New Jersey Department of Education*

The public must understand **we are not waiting with a punitive stick to implement the standards.** I'm very optimistic." *Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed. D. Acting Commissioner. New Jersey Department of Education*

## Intimidation and threats begin to intensify

July

<https://www.njedreport.com/2022/07/14/murphys-education-department-announces-districts-will-be-penalized-for-not-following-new-sex-education-standards/>

**"Districts that do not teach the standards will be penalized** for instruction and program in the appropriate curricular area,' though the nature of the penalty might vary. 'We couldn't speculate because it would be a fact-specific issue and **the severity of the ramifications could vary,** as would be the case for other statutory/regulatory violations,' she said, when asked what those penalties could look like. *DOE's communications manager, Laura Fredrick, who emailed a statement in response to a journalist at the Bergen Record*

## Unprecedented intimidating rhetoric increases

Sept

<https://www.njedreport.com/2022/09/20/nj-ed-department-says-its-serious-about-punishing-districts-that-dont-adhere-to-new-sex-ed-standards/>

**New Jersey Student Learning Standards are mandatory and failure to comply can result in disciplinary action.** For any children to be excused from any part of instruction in health, family life, or sex education, their parent or guardian must inform the school principal in writing that the instruction conflicts with their conscience or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs. *NJDOE Statement, Sept 19, 2022*

# What can you ask your school board to do?

1. **Pass a Resolution** opposing the Social and Sexual Health section of the Health and Physical Education Learning Standards and request the Department of Education revises the standards.
2. **Restrict any “diversity” lessons** regarding gender identity or sexual orientation into Health Class. The law says they can be placed where the local school district determines is an “appropriate” place.
3. **Make parents Opt-In** to Health Class.
4. **Find creative solutions to learning standards**. This includes take home assignments for parents to discuss with their children or teaching the material the last day of school. Some school districts have abridged the lessons to NOT include genitals as medically accurate parts for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to discuss, NOT include masturbation as part of sexual development for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and ONLY teach that STI’s are transmitted through different body parts WITHOUT defining anal, oral, and vaginal sex for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Check that abstinence is being stressed per state law

Title 18A - EDUCATION

Section 18A:35-4.20 - Sex education programs to stress abstinence.

Universal Citation: [NJ Rev Stat § 18A:35-4.20 \(2014\)](#)

### **18A:35-4.20 Sex education programs to stress abstinence.**

2. Any sex education that is given as part of any planned course, curriculum or other instructional program and that is intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to human sexual behavior, sexual feelings and sexual values, human sexuality and reproduction, pregnancy avoidance or termination, HIV infection or sexually transmitted diseases, regardless of whether such instruction is described as, or incorporated into a description of "sex education," "family life education," "family health education," "health education," "family living," "health," "self esteem," or any other course, curriculum program or goal of education, and any materials including, but not limited, to handouts, speakers, notes or audiovisuals presented on school property concerning methods for the prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy, shall stress that abstinence from sexual activity is the only completely reliable means of eliminating the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and of avoiding pregnancy.

### **18A:35-4.21 Abstinence from sexual activity stressed in curriculum.**

3. The board of education shall include in its family life and HIV/AIDS curriculum instruction on reasons, skills and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from sexual activity. Any instruction concerning the use of contraceptives or prophylactics such as condoms shall also include information on their failure rates for preventing pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in actual use among adolescent populations and shall clearly explain the difference between risk reduction through the use of such devices and risk elimination through abstinence.



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