

DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOLS

SUPPLEMENTAL SEX EDUCATION

REVISED 02.18.23

AND YOUR
RIGHT TO
OPT OUT

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

LEARN ABOUT THE DISTRICT'S
COMPREHENSIVE 'SEX POSITIVE'
CURRICULUM AND YOUR RIGHT TO
OPT YOUR CHILD OUT

MOMS *for*
LIBERTY ★
DUVAL COUNTY • FLORIDA

INTRODUCTION

An enduring American tradition is that parents are the primary educators of their children. Courts have decided time and again that you have the fundamental right to direct the moral upbringing, education, and health care of your child.

Our public schools have gradually been usurping parents' rightful place as the primary source of information related to personal and values-based topics and content. Regardless of what led us here, the good news is that parents are waking up and re-assuming this important role in American society.

We are facing the reality that our local public schools are pushing ideologies that many find controversial or in violation of their deeply held beliefs. Our schools explicitly incorporate their aim to make our children "advocates," while teaching all manner of subject matter, from civics, to history, and sex education.

As you ponder a dizzying array of questions, we offer you this guidebook as a starting point. In these pages you will find an overview of portions of our public schools' comprehensive sex ed curriculum, related federal and state laws, and school board policy. You'll learn about your rights as a parent and answers to some common questions. Most importantly, you'll learn how to opt out of lessons that infuse gender and sexual ideology that runs counter to thousands of years of human experience and the tenets of the world's largest religions.

Our goal in providing you with this guidebook is to arm you with information so that you know exactly how to opt-out of lessons should you so desire. Remember, whether you opt out of these DCPS lessons or not, you should still be the primary source of information for your children related to these sensitive topics.

Teach them first. Teach them well. If you don't, there's an army ready and waiting to do your job for you.

Moms for Liberty Duval is here to help. We want to support you as we serve to remind you:

We do not co-parent with the government.

Yours in Liberty,



Becky Nathanson

Moms for Liberty – Duval County (Jacksonville, FL)

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DCPS'S COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION:

DUVAL'S "SEX POSITIVE" PHILOSOPHY

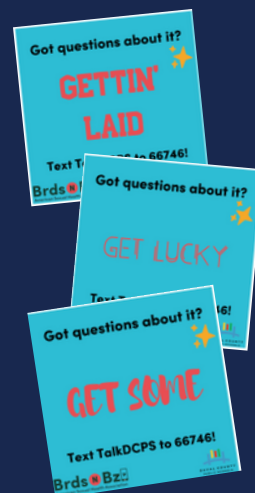
Duval County Public Schools is required by state statute to teach students reproductive health, which includes pregnancy, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) education.

The district's core health textbooks already comply with this statute. The district is permitted by law, *but not required*, to provide supplemental education on topics that exceed the state requirements. **DCPS has decided to add supplemental, "condoms and consent" lessons to the state required standards.**

As a result of a federal CDC DASH (Division of Adolescent School Health) grant, the district provides supplementary health education, which is also referred to as **comprehensive sex education (CSE) grounded in social justice and equity**. In short, CSE's fundamental objective is to teach "condoms and consent." Below are some statements the district has provided regarding their CSE approach and intent:

- Comprehensive sex education includes "skills-based," "participatory" co-ed (boys and girls together) condom skills lesson beginning in middle school (8th grade). Condom skills lessons continue in high school, with the additional use of a penis prop. (School Board Policy 4.10) NOTE: These condom lessons are not mentioned in the sex ed curriculum that the district makes available to parents for review.
- The penis prop used for condom skills lesson is a 7.25-inch wooden penis, which can be viewed here. Comprehensive sex education provides adequate time for ... students to practice skills relating to sex education.
- Comprehensive sex education incorporates learning strategies, teaching methods, and materials that are trauma-informed, culturally inclusive, sex positive, and grounded in social justice and equity. **Click here to read the five goals of sex ed for social change.** (Seicus.org)
- Per the school district, "Prior to students receiving any Sexual Education instructions, Parent Notification Letters are distributed by the classroom teacher."

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW: *In addition to approved curriculum, the district subversively provided sex education through a sex text chat line advertised directly to students in schools. The program, called BrdsNBz, was an anonymous chat line where middle and high schoolers could ask questions about "Getting Lucky" and "Hooking Up." In violation of state statute, the school board never approved of this, nor were parents made aware of this education or given an opportunity to opt their child out. You can see photos of the ads students saw online and at school by searching photos at momsforlibertyduval.org.*



As a result of Moms for Liberty making this public beginning in October 2021, the district stopped this program in December 2022.

THE CURRICULUM

The Duval County School Board voted 5-2 to approve **Supplemental** Health Materials (*comprehensive sex ed*) for grades 5-12. Parents can review instructional materials online or by contacting their child's teacher, principal, or the school district.

02.18.23 Update: The district removed the approved supplemental materials from their website after this guidebook was published. The district makes lesson guides available for parent review in FOCUS, which do not include the topics of sexual orientation or gender identity. Concerned parents should ask if their student will have access to the full supplemental books, which do include such topics.

If your child's teacher, principal, or the school district refuses to release all instructional materials to you:

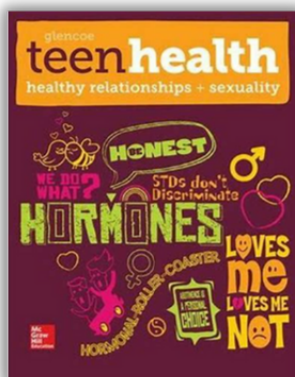
- *Email the superintendent and copy your elected School Board Member.*
- *Remind the school district that federal law requires schools to make instructional materials available for public inspection.*
- *Notify Moms for Liberty - Duval.*



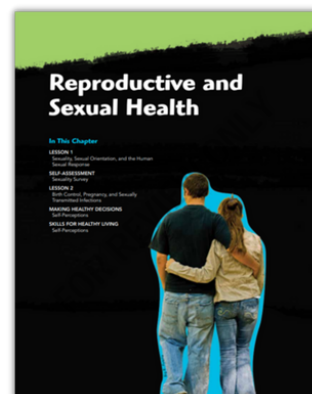
ELEMENTARY GIRLS



ELEMENTARY BOYS



MIDDLE SCHOOL SEX ED



HIGH SCHOOL SEX ED

BOARD-APPROVED ELEMENTARY MATERIALS

Parents can easily review the elementary supplemental curriculum on the school district website. All parents are encouraged to read the material to make an informed decision regarding your child receiving this education. **The Always Changing curriculum includes the topic of gender identity.**





BOARD-APPROVED MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Parents can also review the middle school supplemental curriculum online. All parents are encouraged to read the material to make an informed decision regarding your child receiving this education. **Important: Middle schoolers will receive education on pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections within the core health curriculum, even if the parent opts out of this supplemental curriculum. This supplemental sex ed goes beyond topics that are required by state statute regarding reproductive health and STIs.**

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:

The approved book defines the following Sexual Orientations: homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, intersexual, transgender, and questioning.

Content within the textbook material is provided by SEICUS which is an organization that advances sex ed for social change. "SEICUS commits to working to dismantle the systems of power and oppression which perpetuate disparate sexual and reproductive health outcomes...across the intersections of age, race, size, gender, gender identity and expression, class, sexual orientation, and ability." [Click here to read the five goals of sex ed for social change. \(seicus.org\)](#)

The curriculum explicitly assigns children an activity to **teach students to become advocates.**

➤ **Applying Health Skills**

6. ADVOCACY Create a pamphlet that describes different sexual orientations. In your pamphlet, define the different the terms used to describe sexual orientation and identity and why it is important to respect a person's individual differences.

BOARD-APPROVED HIGH SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Parents can also review the high school supplemental curriculum online. All parents are encouraged to read the material to make an informed decision regarding your child receiving this education. **Important: High schoolers will receive education on pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections within the core health curriculum, even if the parent opts out of this supplemental curriculum. This supplemental sex ed goes beyond topics that are required by state statute regarding reproductive health and STIs.**

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:

The selected curriculum presents a one-sided view of transgender ideology.

Offering a one-sided view is in violation of FLDOE rule which states that "instructional material must be accurate, objective, balanced, non-inflammatory, and current."



DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES: Being Transgender

My name is Kelly, and I am transgender (a word referring to instances in which a person's inner sense of gender does not correspond to his or her biological sex as male or female). From the time I was little, I knew that I was meant to be a girl although everyone else thought of me as a boy. My body didn't match my feelings. I remember wanting to be like my sister Lisa, and I remember feeling confused and self-conscious about it. I wanted to wear her clothes, grow my hair like hers, and play with her tea sets and toys.

When I started going through puberty, it was unbearable. I hated the way my body was chang-

ing, and my feelings kept getting stronger. One day my mom confronted me—she asked me if I was gay. I said no. I told her that I was attracted to boys but that I didn't want to be one—I told her I was a straight girl and not a gay guy. She didn't understand, and we fought about it for years. Luckily, I found support in my school's LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) support group, and I kept bringing home pamphlets and information from my school counselor. Over time, we started to talk openly about it, and when I was in college I started hormone therapy and transitioned into living as a girl full time. I was lucky to have really supportive friends in college.

For the first time in my life, I feel whole, and I finally am beginning to feel comfortable in my skin. I worry that I will never find love or have a family of my own, but for now I am happy to finally just be me.

Page 4: "Many health experts and religious leaders believe that certain types of sexual behaviors should be reserved for adults, but *people can hold different views even on the question of when a person becomes an adult.*"

Page 12: "When should you become sexually active? ...Nobody can answer [this question] but you." **This is in violation of state statute 1003.42 and 1003.46 which require the teaching of abstinence as the expected standard.**

HOW TO OPT OUT

The school district sends Parent Notification Letters to inform parents of the opt-out process. The letters are sent at the beginning of the school year for elementary and high school students, and the beginning of the term for middle school students. Fifth grade Parent Notification Letters are sent home at the beginning of the 4th nine weeks. Moms for Liberty - Duval recommends parents who wish to opt out take the following steps in addition to the instructions found in the notification letter.

1

Send a letter (email) to your child's principal. Copy the teacher. Copy your elected school board member (Copying school board member is recommended, not required).

Sample/suggested wording for your letter.

Subject: Supplemental Sex Ed Opt-Out Notification

Dear Principal [Last Name]:

Pursuant to Florida State Statute 1003.42 and School Board Policy 5.09, I would like to exercise my parental opt-out rights for my child, [First Last Name], regarding supplemental health/comprehensive sex ed.

Please let me know when these lessons will be taught, where my child will be asked to go during this time, and what assignments he/she will be given in lieu of participating in this optional comprehensive sex ed curriculum.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

2

Check your Parent FOCUS account for an Opt-Out instruction.

Read and follow instructions provided in FOCUS.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What if I have a child in a private or charter school. Do they teach the same sex ed content and do I have the same rights?

Ask your child's teacher, principal, and school's governing board to see all curriculum and instructional materials related to reproductive health and sex ed. If they teach content you find objectionable, ask about your opt-out rights. If they do not teach controversial or objectionable sexual or gender ideology, write them a thank-you note. If it is a public charter school, consider copying your elected School Board Member on your thank you note.

What if my child is required to affirm an idea he doesn't agree with?

Ask yourself. Is the idea at issue a fact or an opinion? There can only be one right answer on a math test or a spelling quiz. But if a school employee forces your child to repeat an idea or opinion, it may be infringing on his First Amendment rights. If your child had no choice but to accept an idea or opinion as his own, the school has likely compelled his speech in violation of the First Amendment. (SLFLiberty.org, Your Child's Rights parent guide.)

What if my child is required to complete an assignment revealing her sexual orientation, sexual behaviors, or gender identity?

A school cannot require a child to provide any of this information without parental consent. If your child is required to provide this information without your consent, contact an attorney. (SLFLiberty.org, Your Child's Rights parent guide.) Notify Moms for Liberty - Duval.

Can a school require a student to engage in speech or advocacy?

No, a school can't compel student speech on any topic or make students affirm a belief. (SLFLiberty.org, Your Child's Rights parent guide.)

What if my child was discriminated against or harassed, what are my legal options?

File a complaint with Florida Board of Education, a state ethics complaint, and a complaint with the Federal Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. Notify Moms for Liberty - Duval.

FEDERAL & STATE LAW



Federal Parent Protections

As stated by the United States Supreme Court: “The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition.”

You have the fundamental right to direct the moral upbringing, education, health care and mental health care of your child.

You have the right to learn about your child’s course of study, including the source of any supplemental education materials. *This includes the right to inspect school district instructional materials including teacher materials, surveys, lesson plans, books, and teacher training.*

You have the right to object to instructional materials used in the classroom. Such objections may be based on beliefs regarding morality, sex, religion, or the belief that such materials are harmful.



State of Florida Parent Protections

The Florida Supreme Court has also recognized the fundamental rights of parents’ in determining the care and upbringing of their children and that these rights may not be intruded upon absent a compelling state interest.*

FS 1003.42 requires public schools to provide instruction on dating violence, reproductive health including pregnancy, STIs and HIV, and awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard. This statute also states a parent may request an exemption from instruction on reproductive health or supplemental health education.

*See *Beagle v. Beagle*, 678 So. 2d 1271 (Fla. 1996)

ADDITIONAL INFO / HELPFUL LINKS



Duvalschools.org – Search “Parent Notification Letters.”

Search the DCPS website to find Parent Notification Letters. These letters are available in English, Arabic, Burmese, Portuguese, Spanish and Tagalong. (Duvalschools.org)



Submit a Formal Challenge of Instructional Material

Duvalschools.org – Search “Reconsideration Form”

School Board policy 4.30 outlines the process for any concerned stakeholder to request a reevaluation of instructional materials.

You do not have to be a parent of a DCPS student to submit a Request for Reconsideration Form. The Superintendent is required by law to notify the Duval County School Board, as well as the Florida Department of Education of all challenges.



Contact Your Elected School Board Member

The School Board is required to review and vote annually on all sex ed curriculum. Our elected officials should know where their constituents stand. Make your voice heard so that your elected School Board Member is more informed during the next review process. Always be as polite as possible. Reach out Moms for Liberty Duval for assistance if needed.

To find your School Board Member: [Momsforlibertyduval.org](https://momsforlibertyduval.org) – Scroll down to “Resources & Issues” section. Look for:

- [2023 School Board Districts Map](#)
- [DCSB Member List by School](#)

CONTACT US - BETTER YET, JOIN US!



Momsforlibertyduval.org



<https://twitter.com/Moms4Liberty>



<https://www.instagram.com/moms4liberty/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/moms4libertyduvalfl/>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2H19eKURyI364Q3Rv-o_5g



momsforlibertyduval@gmail.com



momsforliberty.org/podcast/

TEACH THEM FIRST.

TEACH THEM WELL.

IF YOU DON'T, THERE'S AN ARMY READY AND WAITING

TO DO YOUR JOB FOR YOU.

WE BELIEVE IN YOU AND WE CAN HELP.