

Washington state standards for sex education <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/sexual-health-education>

Sexual Health Education

What's New

[Coronavirus Guidance for Required HIV Prevention Instruction](#) is now available. Updated 4/28.

[New legislation \(SB 5395\)](#), passed by the Legislature in 2020, will require all school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education by the 2022-23 school year.

Contact Information

Sexual Health Education

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OSPI provides technical assistance and support to schools by promoting best practices in HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual health education. [The Guide to Sexual Health Education Implementation in Washington State \(2020\)](#) summarizes legislative requirements and best practices for providing sexual health education in schools.

Washington state law requires annual [HIV/AIDS prevention education](#) beginning in grade 5, in accordance with the [AIDS Omnibus Act](#). The [KNOW curriculum](#) is one option for meeting HIV/AIDS prevention requirements in grades 5-8.

The [Healthy Youth Act](#) (state law) and [Health Education K-12 Learning Standards](#) provide a framework for districts choosing to provide sexual health education beyond HIV/AIDS prevention.

New Requirements

[Senate Bill 5395](#), passed by the legislature in 2020, will add new requirements for schools starting in the 2020-2021 school year. Current and new requirements are listed below by grade band.

Sexual Health Education Requirements

- [Grades K-3](#)
 - [If a school chooses to teach sex ed, they are to use these standards pg 28/118](#)
 - <https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/healthfitness/standards/healtheducationk-12learningstandards.pdf>
 - [Grades 4-5](#)
 - [Grades 6-8](#)
 - [Grades 9-12](#)
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What is currently required?

No sexual health content is currently required for grades K-3.

If districts choose to provide sexual health education, it must be consistent with requirements in the [Healthy Youth Act](#).

New Requirements

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, schools must provide [social emotional learning](#) (SEL) to students in grades K-3. SEL provides skills to do things like cope with feelings, set goals, and get along with others. No sexuality content or curriculum. will be required.

[Instructional Materials Review Reports and Tools](#)

In partnership with the Department of Health, OSPI conducts regular reviews of curricula and other materials to support districts in meeting state requirements for the delivery of sexual health education ([RCW 28A.300.475](#)).

[Erin's Law \(Sexual Abuse Prevention\)](#)

SHB 1539 (Erin's Law), passed by the WA legislature in 2018, addressed sexual abuse prevention in Washington state schools. The bill did not require schools to provide sexual abuse prevention instruction. OSPI and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) were tasked with reviewing curricula and developing recommendations for the school-based sexual abuse prevention in grades K-12.