Inclusive, affirming, and comprehensive sexual health education provides youth the full toolbox of knowledge and skills needed to support responsible and informed decisions about their health to reduce harm and support overall well-being throughout their entire lives.

The **Healthy Youth Act** removes outdated, stigmatizing language and builds on the current standards for health and sexual health education courses by including:

- puberty, growth, and adolescent development
- anatomy and physiology
- healthy relationships and friendships
- healthy decision-making
- personal safety
- pregnancy and reproduction
- effective communication
- gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation

The Healthy Youth Act expands the current requirement that instruction be medically accurate, developmentally and age appropriate to include instruction that is also culturally and linguistically appropriate and adapted for students with disabilities and non-English speaking students.

The **Healthy Youth Act** ensures that sexual health education in Illinois is inclusive and affirming of communities who historically have been stigmatized or excluded including LGBTQIA and pregnant or parenting youth.

### How does the current law and the Healthy Youth Act compare?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Law</th>
<th>Healthy Youth Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applies to 6th through 12th grade*</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No mandate for sexual health education</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only if schools are already providing sexual health education, then these standards apply</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows parents or guardians to request copies of instructional materials and choose to opt their child out of instruction without penalty</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires instruction on both abstinence and scientifically accepted contraceptive methods to prevent and reduce unintended pregnancies and STIs including HIV</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to make model instruction materials available on its website</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removes outdated, stigmatizing language</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction is inclusive and affirming of all identities</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires curriculum to also be culturally and linguistically appropriate</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides critical knowledge and skills to support responsible and informed decisions about health and overall well-being (listed above)</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If sexual health education courses are taught in grades 5 and under, they must be age-appropriate, medically accurate, evidence-based or evidence-informed, and culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate.

For more information, contact:
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Supporting Organizations

American Association of University Women
ACLU of Illinois
ACLU of Illinois – Champaign Chapter
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Affinity Community Services
Chicago Abortion Fund
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
Chicago Women’s Health Center
Comprehensive Sex Ed Now
EverThrive Illinois
Girls Inc. of Chicago
Howard Brown Health Center
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Illinois National Organization for Women
Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, a program of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women – North Shore
Peer Health Exchange
Pride Action Tank
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Health
Resilience (formerly Rape Victim Advocates)
Teen Health Council
University of Illinois Chicago – Urban Medicine Program
YWCA Evanston/Northshore

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