

HIV/Sex Education Curriculum Review for 7th through 12 grades: Pilot lesson approval

Background:

The East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS) currently uses the Michigan Model for Health, which includes "Growing Up and Staying Healthy: Understanding HIV and Other STIs" for grades 7-8, and "Healthy and Responsible Relationships: HIV, Other STIs, and Pregnancy Prevention" for grades 9-12. In response to feedback from educators and to ensure that ELPS students receive the most inclusive, comprehensive, and up-to-date education on HIV prevention and sexual health, the district's Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) began exploring affordable, digitally-accessible, comprehensive curriculum options that align with current national standards for sexual health education and meet Michigan's requirements for HIV and sex education.

In accordance with district policy 5407 (the ELPS Curriculum Adoption Process), the SEAB established a curriculum review sub-committee made up of key staff and educators to begin reviewing updated HIV and sexual health curriculum for grades 7-12. After a thorough assessment of the three top options that met the established criteria, the SEAB identified "Rights, Respect, and Responsibility" (Michigan-Aligned Lessons) for a limited pilot program. This pilot aims to gather feedback from educators and students regarding the relevance, relatability, and classroom experience associated with the lessons and materials. Following the pilot phase, the SEAB and the curriculum review committee will incorporate this feedback into their final consideration of the "Rights, Respect, and Responsibility" curriculum as a potential replacement for the current Michigan Model curriculum.

Pilot Lessons Recommended:

The recommended lessons for the limited pilot program in our upper middle school and high school classrooms come from "Rights, Respect, and Responsibility" (2023). This curriculum best meets the SEAB's criteria for inclusiveness, comprehensiveness, digital availability, and alignment with Michigan state requirements and national standards for HIV prevention and sexual health education. The selected pilot lessons include three lessons for grades 7-8 and three lessons for grades 9-12. Each of these lessons covers themes related to STI/HIV and pregnancy prevention, sexual violence prevention, and responsible decision-making.

7th Grade & 8th Grade Lesson 4 - Protecting Your Health: Understanding and Preventing HIV and STIs ;
7th Grade & 8th Grade Lesson 6 - Making SMART Choices ,

7th Grade & 8th Grade [Lesson 8 - Warning Signs: Understanding Sexual Abuse and Assault](#)

9-12th Grade: [Lesson 2 - Unhealthy Relationships: Plan for Safety](#)

9-12th Grade: [Lesson 5 - Planning and Protection: Avoiding and Managing STIs;](#)

9-12th Grade: [Lesson 11: Rights, Respect, Responsibility - Don't Have Sex Without Them;](#)

Procedure:

The pilot lessons will be added onto the existing approved curriculum and will take place during scheduled instruction for each grade level. Depending on the approval from the ELPS Board of Education and the timing of classroom instruction, the pilot may begin before the end of the current school year or during the 2025-26 school year. If approved, the pilot lessons will be included in the standard notifications to parents and caregivers, providing opportunities for material review and “opt-out” procedures in accordance with state law and district policy.