









SUPPORT SB 266: THE HEALTHY YOUTH ACT

Sponsor: Villanueva-Sims



















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The Healthy Youth Act removes outdated, stigmatizing language and builds on the current standards for health and sexual health education courses by including: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Removes outdated, stigmatizing language		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

*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 and developmentally appropriate.