



**RWB
SALON**

HOW TO FIGHT ATTACKS ON SEX ED



**KATIE
CHRISTENSEN
MINEER**



**KAITLYN
MARCHESANO**



**NORA
GELPERIN**



**ALISON
MACKLIN**



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 7:30 PM ET | VIRTUAL EVENT



The Future of Sex Education (FoSE)

FoSE Partners

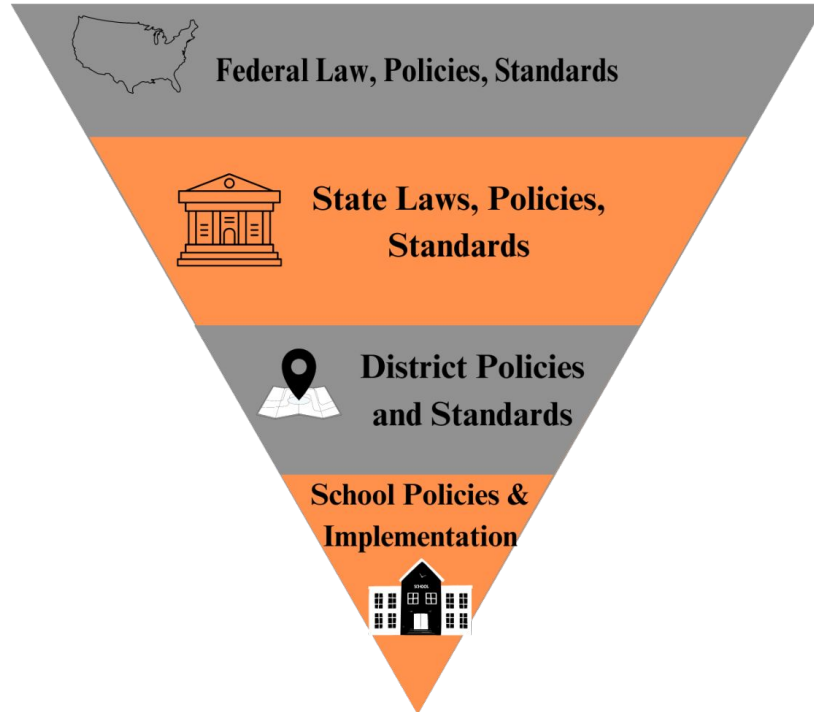
**Advocates
for Youth**
Rights. Respect. Responsibility.

answer
sex ed, honestly

**Planned
Parenthood®**
North Central States

SIECUS
SEX ED FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Sex Ed in America



Is sex ed being taught in your school?



Join at menti.com | use code 5410 3191

What is Sex Ed?

Information about topics like keeping our bodies safe, healthy relationships and puberty.

Skills to help us communicate about boundaries, be assertive, deal with peer pressure, find a trusted adult, find reliable information online, etc.

Over 30 years of research has proven that sex ed can help:

delay having sex for the first time

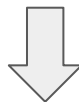


more/better contraception



school connectedness

have fewer partners



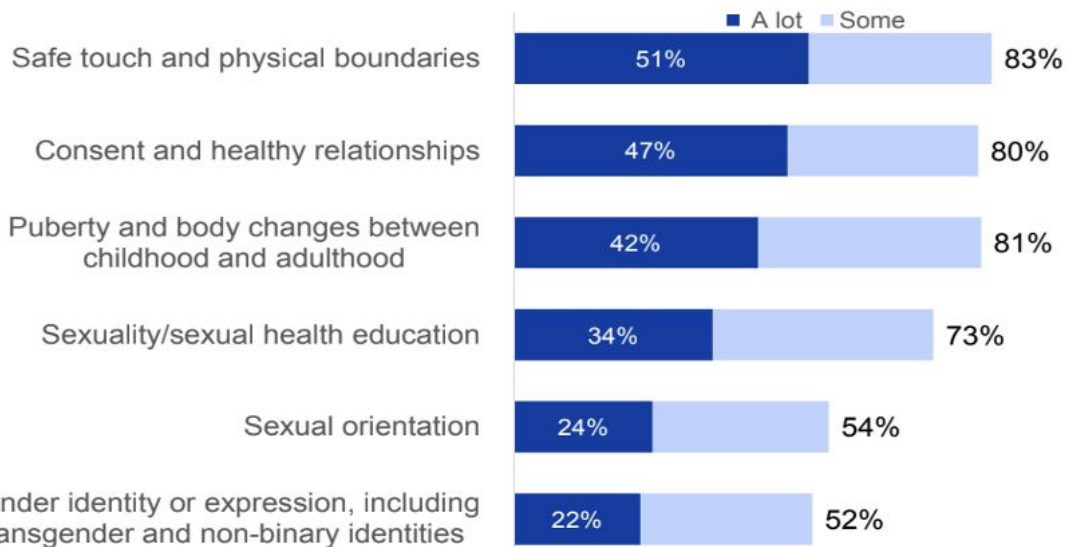
sexual violence



graduation rates

Sex Ed is Not Controversial

How Much Should Be Taught

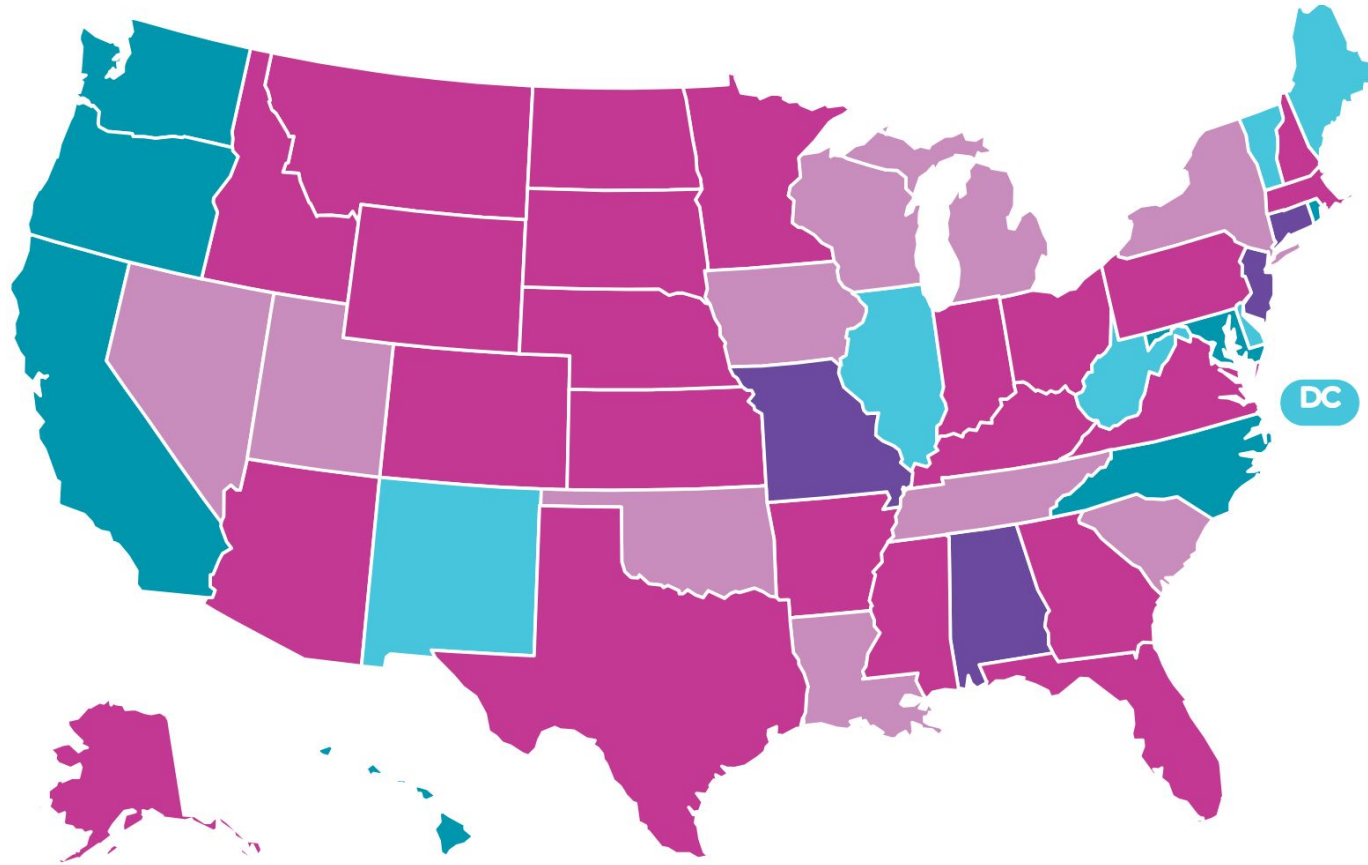


% A lot/some

Elem.	Middle	High	Black	Hispanic	White
86%	80%	80%	83%	85%	81%
80%	78%	82%	80%	82%	80%
81%	82%	80%	79%	86%	79%
72%	70%	75%	72%	77%	72%
52%	53%	60%	60%	64%	49%
51%	49%	55%	54%	61%	47%

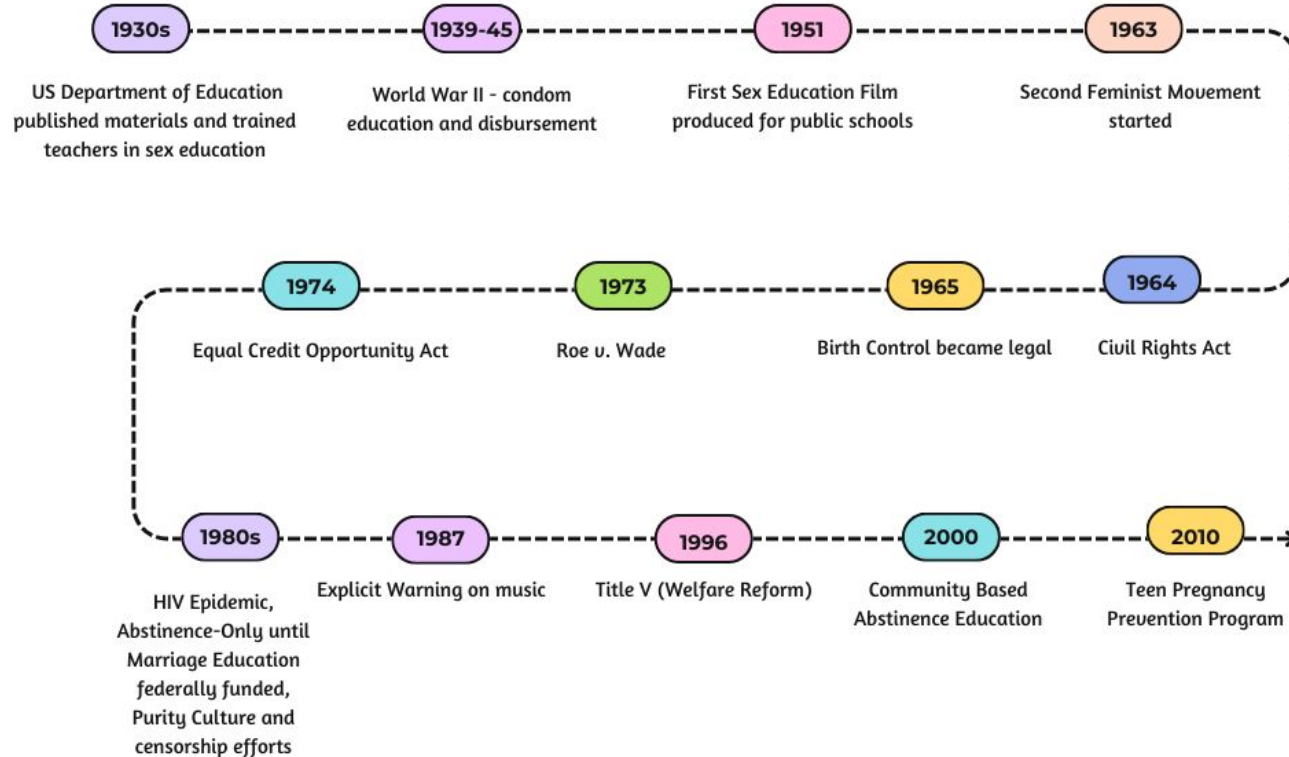
Source: A 2023 survey commissioned by National PTA and supported by the CDC Foundation.

● A ● B ● C ● D ● F



<https://reportcard.reprosfightback.com/>

Sex Education Progress Timeline



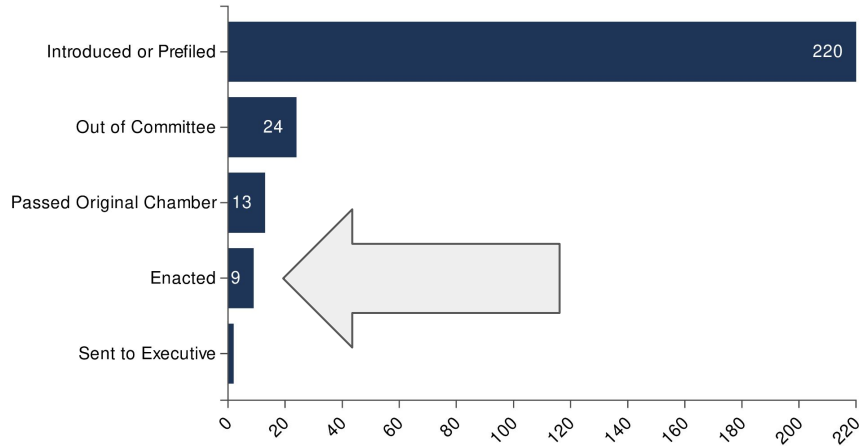
How Sex Ed Is Under Attack

- **Baby Olivia videos** and fetal development education
- **“Success sequencing”**
- **Opt-in policies**
- **Book bans & LGBTQIA+ censorship.**
- **Mahmoud v. Taylor**

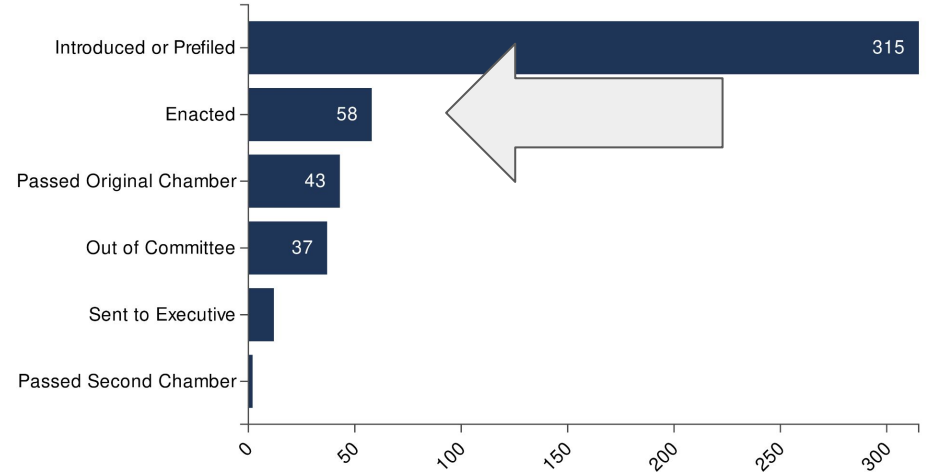


Where Are We Now?

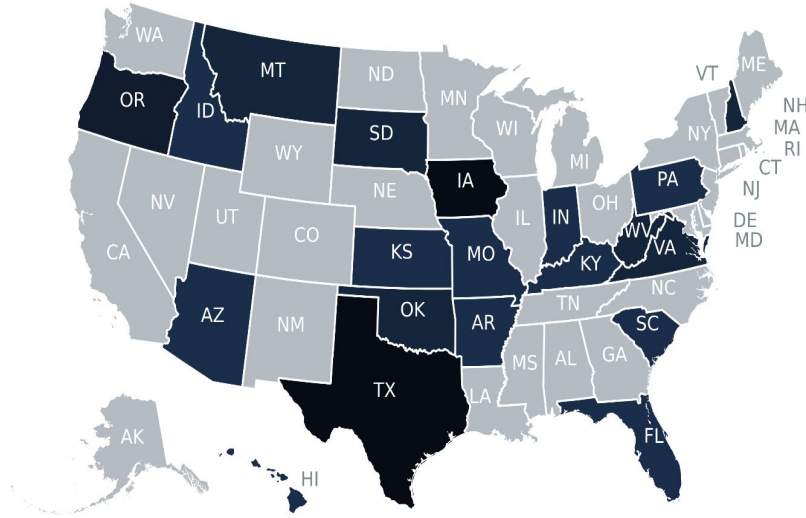
Progressive Legislation Tracked 2025



Regressive Legislation Tracked 2025



Spotlight on Anti-Abortion Indoctrination



“At three weeks and one day, just 22 days after fertilization, Olivia’s heartbeat can be detected,” says the narrator.



Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) | use code 5410 3191

15.1-21-28. Growth and development and human sexuality curriculum - Content.

1. As used in this section:
 - a. "Human growth and development discussion" means an oral, written, or digital lesson, lecture, or presentation about human biology related to pregnancy and human development inside the womb.
 - b. "Human sexuality instruction" means an oral, written, or digital lesson, lecture, or presentation about sexual activity and pregnancy in the context of student health or healthy relationships.
2. A school district's health curriculum must include human growth and development discussion. The human growth and development discussion must include:
 - a. A high-definition ultrasound video, at least three minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development; and
 - b. A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation showing the process of fertilization and every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development for every week of pregnancy until birth.
3. A school district offering human sexuality instruction shall ensure human sexuality instruction includes:
 - a. A high-definition ultrasound video, at least three minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development; and
 - b. A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation showing the process of fertilization and every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development for every week of pregnancy until birth.
4. The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure the requirements of this section are included in the North Dakota health content standards.

2023 Legislative Session

**Senate: 37-9-1
House: 75-16-3**

**“Baby Olivia”
not mentioned in
law**

CONCERNED
WOMEN for AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Date January 17, 2023
House Human Services Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 1265

Chairman Robin Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Linda Thorsen, State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. Today, I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee in support of HB 1265.

As our state's largest public policy women's organization, we strongly support the provisions in HB 1265 as it meets the goal of providing quality education to a level of excellence in academic achievement.

My background is in education. I served as a speech-language pathologist in public schools for 26 years and received the 2015 Council for Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year Award.

HB 1265 provides content guidelines to our Life Science and Health Education Standards relating to "growth and development and human sexuality." It adds statements to be taught in the classroom regarding the use of digital imaging of human growth and development inside the womb to the Educational Benchmark outlined in our state standards.

First, I want to note the North Dakota Content Science Standards document was developed beginning in 2018. Superintendent of Public Instruction Kiersten Baesler describes the purpose for creating our State Science Standards in part of the [Forward](#) written in 2019:

"The North Dakota Constitution recognizes the importance of public education in nurturing prosperity, happiness, and a 'high degree of intelligence, patriotism, integrity, and morality.' Statewide academic content standards, and an assessment system that measures student progress, help us to reach these noble objectives. By using our new, challenging science standards to measure student achievement, we can monitor growth, address deficiencies, and ensure comparability of educational opportunity statewide."

Standards have been changed in the past. Seventeen changes are listed in the [North Dakota Science Content Standards](#), following the Introduction in the Documentation Revision Log found online. HB 1265 seeks to make minor changes to our Life Science and Health State Standards. The content description of a "high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation showing the process of fertilization and every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development for every week of pregnancy until

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA OF NORTH DAKOTA

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NORTH DAKOTA
Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1265

Jacob Thomsen, Policy Analyst
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 17, 2023

Good Morning Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am a Policy Analyst with North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1265 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

When I was in high school, I took a class called Health Careers. This class offered an overview of medical health and how the human body worked. In this class we watched a video that I would never forget. It was a movie titled *The Miracle of Life*. This movie was released in 1982 and had intricate details about how the human reproductive system worked and showed why the saying is "the miracle of life." If you haven't seen it, you should really watch it sometime. After we had watched the film, I wondered why a video like this had not been shown previously in other classes? Why am I only seeing this now as a senior in high school?

House Bill 1265 seeks to remedy this issue. It seeks to cover the miracle of life and educate our young citizens of North Dakota about how precious life really is.

At North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action, we believe that this education provides crucial information about life and how it comes to be. It is incredibly important that our young people understand how life begins and, in turn, understand the gravity of the journey of pregnancy. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action requests that you render a "DO PASS" on House Bill 1265.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am now happy to answer any questions.



Chairman Robin Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee –

My name is Sierra Heitkamp and I am the Legislative Director for North Dakota Right to Life. I am testifying today to represent the interests of our 3700 members across the state of North Dakota.

Since the overturn of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, there have been many questions regarding what this means for the direction of our organization. At North Dakota Right to Life, we questioned ourselves as to how our vision and goals may have to evolve moving forward to adequately protect those most vulnerable from conception to natural death. After many conversations, the answer became clear – not only will we continue our work in protecting life at all stages, but we also want to back legislation that educates our citizens and encourages life. A woman or family who finds themselves with an unexpected pregnancy should never feel that abortion is their only option to achieve a successful, happy life.

North Dakota Right to Life and its members support HB 1265 as we would like to see education on human development as to humanize the child that has been conceived. We often hear the argument that "it is just a clump of cells" or "the fetus isn't a human, separate from its mother, until carried to term and delivered." This is misinformation and due to the advancement of science and technology, we know that this is far from the truth. It is also important for us to note that this bill does not change the curriculum being taught in our public schools, but instead changes the North Dakota Life Science and Health Education Standards.

I myself first became involved in this pro-life fight in junior high. The Teens for Life chapter in Hankinson, ND was having their monthly meeting and I decided to attend to experience what a group like this did in educating our youth. Throughout the years I was involved, I heard from a girl not much older than me who had an unexpected pregnancy. She bravely explained her experience so that the other members may be able to understand that abortion was not the only option for her. We also watched human development videos during another meeting which was truly eye opening to me as a child in understanding that this is in fact not a "sack of cells," but a human life in critical need of protection and love. The experiences from participating in these educational events truly shaped me into the advocate I am today and fuels my passion in protecting those most vulnerable from conception to natural death.

I ask this committee today for a **Do Pass recommendation on HB 1265** in order to positively encourage the education of our youth on the important lesson of human development in the womb.

Thank you for your time today and I am available by phone or email to answer any questions you may have.



Sincerely,
Sierra M Heitkamp
Sierra M Heitkamp
NDRL Legislative Director

☎ (701) 955-8239 ✉ office@ndrl.org 📍 P.O. Box 1325, Williston, ND 58801

North Dakota Health K-12 Standards Guidance

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the North Dakota State Legislature passed [North Dakota Century Code 15.1-21-28](#) (NDCC), impacting middle and high school health education regarding growth and development and human sexuality curriculum.

The NDCC states:

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4. The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure the requirements of this section are included in the North Dakota health content standards.

Videos that meet the requirements under the NDCC include:

- [WOW! Meet Baby Olivia: A Never Before Seen Look at a Human Life in the Womb.](#)
- Conception to Birth – Visualized / Alexander Tsiaras
<https://youtu.be/fKyJukBE70?si=Sht1OLt9dJbMR-2A>
- Imperial College – Human Embryo Development
<https://youtu.be/1zpV5zWXMA?si=ApH44AwolX4u6eYv>

3D Animated Pregnancy Guide

- First Trimester https://youtu.be/2-ZF-T_95sc
- Second Trimester https://youtu.be/k_V8axPqI34?si=Oz7wyin7MknTOFP7
- Third Trimester <https://youtu.be/n7BSXMvo3O4>

Guidance from North Dakota Department of Instruction

Note: DPI
provides other
videos that meet
the law.

Concerns with Law

- Fear of non-compliance
- Confusion
 - Law says “A high-definition **ultrasound video**, at least three minutes in duration, showing the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development.
 - Baby Oliva is NOT an ultrasound video - it's computer generated.
 - A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation showing the process of fertilization and every stage of human development inside the uterus, noting significant markers in cell growth and **organ development** for **every week of pregnancy** until birth.
 - No mention of lungs.
 - Weeks: 14, 18, 20, 27, and jump to 38.
 - Concerns that no video actually meets these specific requirements.
 - Some opted to show it just to cover themselves.

Became a blueprint for other states

- Reasons it passed in some states:
 - Lawmakers were recruited and trained to support the video
 - Copy-cat legislation - easy to introduce and explain
 - Reinforces anti-abortion sentiment
- Reasons it failed in some states:
 - Curriculum/Government overreach
 - Medical inaccuracy and/or concerns with credibility
 - Too partisan/ideological

Fight back at the legislative level

- Most effective strategy: lawmakers do not determine what is and isn't taught in schools. That's overreaching. These decisions belong to the experts: the educators.
- Medical inaccuracy. Our students deserve accurate information.

Fight back at local level

- Know your school district's policy for selecting and challenging materials.
- Fargo Public Schools AP 4250 Curriculum Development
 - Selection Criteria for Instructional Materials: Presents facts and concepts accurately and objectively
- Fargo Public Schools AP 4250 Curriculum Development
 - Request For Reconsideration of Instructional or Library Materials:
 - What are your concerns about the use of this resource? Please provide the exact location of the objectionable material (page numbers in a book, screens in a software application, or scenes in a video).

AF 4250-1

Request For Reconsideration of Educational Materials

Completion of this form is the first step in the district procedure established for the reconsideration of classroom or library materials. Please return the completed form to the building principal.

Material Type: ☐ Book ☐ Textbook ☐ Newspaper ☐ Periodical
 ☐ Film ☐ Audio Recording ☐ Software
 ☐ Online Program /Website
 ☐ Other

Title of the educational material which you would like to be reconsidered:

Author / Producer:

Copyright Year _____

ISBN _____

What brought this material to your attention?

In what way is the material used? ☐ Classroom assigned reading / viewing
 ☐ Classroom supplemental reading / viewing
 ☐ Library – individual checkout

Have you read/examined/viewed the entire resource? (If less than the whole, please explain)

Have you read any reviews about this resource? Who wrote the review and where was it located?

NEWS FARGO

Parents, advocacy group want fetal development video removed from classes at Fargo Public Schools

The "Baby Olivia" video produced by Live Action has been used in Fargo Public Schools after state lawmakers mandated a fetal development video be shown.



Henry McMullen-Wendt, 15, addresses the Fargo School Board Tuesday, March 26, 2024. He objects to a video being shown at his school in which an animated fetus, "Baby Olivia," develops in the womb. He and others say the video is not medically accurate. Chris Flynn / The Forum

NEWS FARGO

'Baby Olivia' video pulled from Fargo Public Schools

The video, shown in freshman health classes, was produced by an organization that opposes abortion.



The committee found the video met or exceeded expectations in many areas, except for these three:

- It contains significant portions of untrue information, inaccurate facts, and/or faulty premises.
- Company was unable to provide data regarding the effectiveness of the curriculum resource.
- Appeal of interest and needs of students as it is only used in a single course or a single classroom.

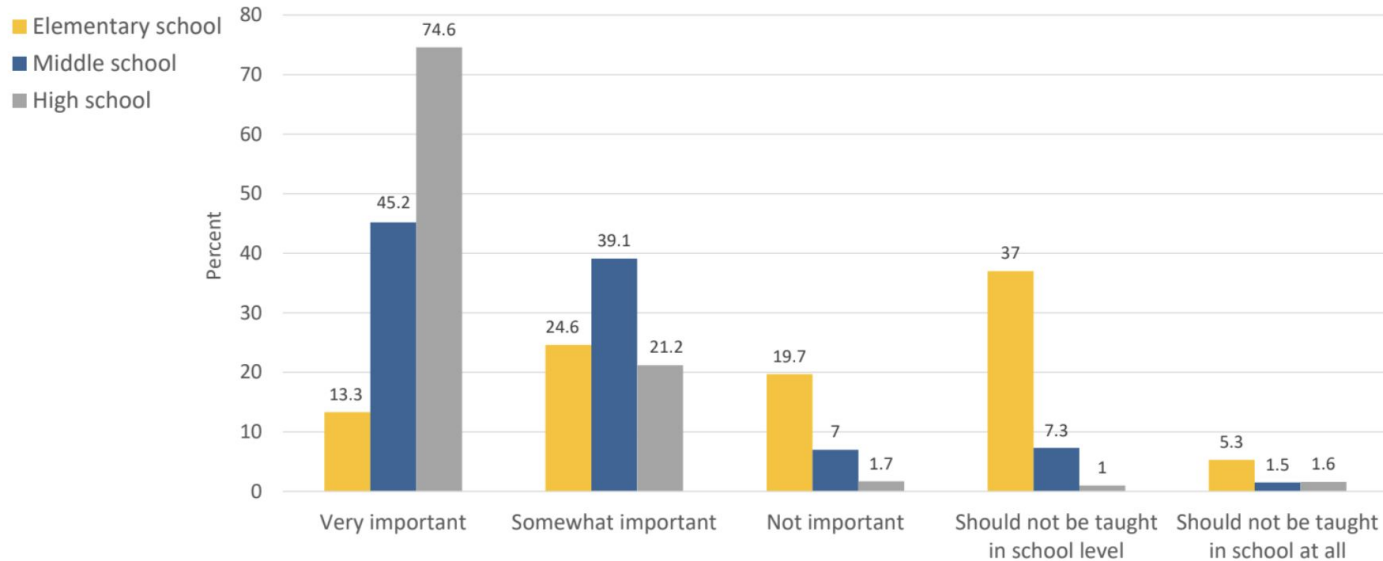
The report said “the video does not contain all major organ development; it states that the heartbeat is heard at three weeks.”

It also said medical experts, including the American Medical Association, found the video to be misleading because “it mischaracterizes how soon fetuses exhibit certain traits and uses a timeline for pregnancy two weeks earlier than is typical.”

Why This Matters for Parents: Don't Let the Loud Few Drown out the Will of the Many!

Sex Education that covers a variety of topics is incredibly popular among parents!

Importance of Sex Education by School Level



Parents want sex-ed that covers a variety of topics AND they want it to be medically accurate!

Sex Education Topic	Said “Yes” to Topic Being Taught In...		
	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV	30.5%	83.4%	96.6%
Puberty and the physical, social, and emotional changes that take place during teen years	51.2%	91.2%	96.1%
Consent and setting boundaries	59.5%	88.8%	95.8%
Self-esteem, including body positivity and self-care	70.7%	91%	95.1%
How to access health care	46.4%	81.1%	95%
Reproduction, including how pregnancy happens	33.6%	79.8%	94.8%
Healthy and unhealthy peer relationships, including peer pressure	63%	87.7%	93.6%
How to stay safe online, including avoiding potential harmful effects of pornography	56.6%	87.2%	91.8%
Birth control methods	21.2%	67.5%	90%

- Age & Developmentally Appropriate
- Comprehensive
- Fact-Based

How can you fight back?

Storytelling is critical! Talk about WHY sex education that is medically accurate and comprehensive matters to you!

I just want my kids to learn what they need to **grow up safe, healthy, and confident.**

- ★ Age-appropriate sex education prepares young people for today's world and **sets them up for success in all their relationships.**
- ★ Sex education helps young people **learn respect and compassion for all**, including those who are different from them.
- ★ All kids deserve to **feel safe and proud of who they are.** Young people who receive sex education have better self-esteem and healthier relationships.

A candid photograph of a family of three in a living room. A man in a light green shirt sits in the center of a light-colored sofa, holding a smartphone and laughing. To his left, a woman with glasses and dark hair sits on the floor, looking towards him. To his right, a woman in a bright pink hoodie sits on the sofa, also smiling. The background features light-colored curtains and a wooden door. The overall atmosphere is warm and joyful.

**Sex Education is
More Than You Think**

Where to Go From Here

FoSE Toolkit

www.siecus.org

- Community Action Toolkit
- State Report Cards
- Reports
- Sex Education Policy Action Council (SEPAC)

www.ppfa.org

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/parents/a-parents-guide-to-advocating-for-sex-education>

www.advocatesforyouth.org



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