

High School Districts By County	Does not teach or promote religious doctrine	Appropriate and accessible to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation	Does not reflect or promote bias against any person who is protected by the non discrimination policy	Educates about skills for responsible decision making	Compliant with credible sources (CDC, APHA)	Reproduction and anatomy	Promotes a healthy self-image	Promotes healthy relationships	Encourages students to communicate with their parents or guardians about their sexual health	Teaches respect for marriage and committed relationships	Types of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	Methods to reduce risk of STI transmission	Local resources for testing and treatment	Safety and effectiveness of all FDA approved contraceptive methods, including emergency contraception (EC)	Teaches abstinence as the only 100% effective method to prevent STIs and pregnancy	2010/2011 SCORE	2011/2012 SCORE	Board Policy Compliant with 2004 ED Code *Not calculated into district's total score
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY																		
Atascadero Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	79.7	100	
Coast Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	71.5	100	●
Lucia Mar Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	80.7	100	●
Paso Robles Joint Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	84.7	100	●
Shandon Joint Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	81.1	91.1	●
San Luis Coastal Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	60.5	100	●
Templeton Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	60.5	100	●
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY																		
Carpinteria Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	68.0	100	●
Cuyama Joint Unified	not teaching sex ed															65.5		
Lompoc Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65.5	100	●
Santa Barbara Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	60.5	100	●
Santa Maria Joint Union	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65.5	90.6	●
Santa Ynez Valley Union	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	70.0	70.0	●
VENTURA COUNTY																		
Conejo Valley Unified	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65.5	93.8	●
Fillmore Unified	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	80.4	87.0	●
Moorpark Unified	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65.5	90.6	●
Oak Park Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	90.6	95.6	●
Ojai Unified	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	68.0	95.0	●
Oxnard Union	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	79.7	79.7	●
Santa Paula Union	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	68.0	92.7	●
Simi Valley Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	64.2	100	●
Ventura Unified	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	84.7	100	●

● TOPIC IS COMPLETELY COVERED    ● TOPIC IS PARTIALLY COVERED    □ TOPIC IS NOT COVERED

# SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2012 Audit

### Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education Matters

# What it's about

#### What it is

Comprehensive sexuality health education provides instruction on human development and sexuality including information about abstinence, pregnancy, contraception, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

In California, all schools are required by law to teach HIV/AIDS prevention, but they are not required to teach sexuality health education. Districts that choose to teach sexuality health education must teach a

#### Why it's important

Providing young people with the information they need to make responsible decisions is the common sense solution to reducing unintended teen pregnancy and the transmission of STIs.

Comprehensive sexuality health education gives teens the tools they need to delay parenthood and stay healthy while they pursue

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comprehensive curriculum that meets the criteria of the California Education Code sections 51930-51939. The Education Code requires that curriculum and materials are medically-accurate, objective, and meet the requirements outlined on the back cover. All districts but one in the tri-counties include a sexuality health component in their health education curriculum, which most require as a graduation requirement.

their long-term goals. Without it, communities pay the costs of the educational, health, financial, and social challenges associated with teen pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> Teen mothers exhibit poorer psychological health than others their age, and teen fathers have a lower earning potential over time.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>McCave, E.L. (2007). Comprehensive sexuality education vs. abstinence-only sexuality education: The need for evidence-based research and practice. School Social Work Journal, 32 (1), 14-28. <sup>2</sup> Constantine, Norman, and Carmen Rita Navares, No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California, Public Health Institute, Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development, 2006 Spring Update.



## In Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties

Teen birth rates (ages 15-19) in the tri-counties were down slightly in 2009, as compared to both 2007 and 2008.<sup>3</sup>

Births to teens represent over 11% of the total number of births in Santa Barbara County, almost 10% in Ventura County, and more than 6% in San Luis Obispo County.<sup>4</sup>

Chlamydia is by far the highest reported STI in the tri-counties and is on an upward trend, especially for high school aged

females. A small number of chlamydia cases have been reported among females 10-14 years old.

Gonorrhea rates increased in Ventura County in 2010 over the previous year, while they decreased in San Luis Obispo Counties. Gonorrhea stayed at a level rate in Santa Barbara County.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Lucille Packard Foundation, 2012.  
<sup>4</sup>California Department of Public Health, County Birth Statistical Data Tables, 2009.<sup>4</sup> California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch, 2010.

# What we did

## Review of Materials Used by Schools

To ensure that school districts are complying with California Education Code sections 51930-51939, Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties (PPSBVLSLO) audited textbooks and supplemental materials used in high school health education classes.

The comprehensiveness of textbooks and supplemental materials plays a critical role in ensuring that educators cover all aspects of the Education Code.

## Audit Process

All 22 secondary school districts were asked to provide current sexuality health education materials. Districts were contacted multiple times, and in some cases, a Public Records Act request was necessary to obtain materials.

## How Curriculum Was Scored

Analysis of health textbooks and supplemental materials was based on the requirements specified in the California Education Code sections 51930-51939.

Points were awarded only if a district provided information on specific topics, for a maximum possible score of 100.

**This audit reflects the compliance of high school curricula only. No in-class audits were conducted.**

The requirements specified by the California Education Code are organized into four categories: overall requirements; human development and healthy relationships; sexually transmitted infection (STI) information; and pregnancy prevention. Each of the four categories was weighted equally and districts had the opportunity to earn points by covering various components within each category.

# What we found

All audited districts have school board policies governing sexuality health education curriculum, and that policy reflects current Education Code requirements in all but two school districts.

The California School Boards Association provides model board policies and administrative regulations to member school districts. These model policies cover all current Education Code and legislation impacting sexuality health education.

The overwhelming majority of districts significantly increased their scores in this year's audit. Only three of the 22 districts audited made no gains in their scores, including Cuyama Unified School District, which is not currently teaching sexuality health education. Therefore, of the 22 total high school districts in the tri-counties, 21 are teaching sexuality health education.

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## Contraception, STIs and Healthy Image

All 21 districts teaching sexuality health education teach abstinence as the only 100% effective method to prevent STIs and pregnancy; all of those districts also cover methods to reduce the risk of STI transmission. By comparison, the safety and effectiveness of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods was partially omitted by almost a third of all districts.

Four districts failed to completely address issues of healthy image which includes sexual orientation, gender roles, self-esteem, and positive body image.

Thirty-three percent of districts fail to incorporate information that is appropriate for and accessible to students with disabilities.

## District Scoring Notes

All school districts teaching sexuality health education meet the requirements of the California Education Code in 11 of 15 categories, a 33% improvement from the previous audit.

**District scores improved substantially in this year's audit, due to an increased number of districts that reported using supplemental materials to meet the criteria from the Education Code not covered in health textbooks.**

Eleven of 21 districts teaching sexuality health education scored 100%, far surpassing the results of the

previous audit when the highest score was 90.62%. These districts include 6 from SLO County (Atascadero Unified, Coast Unified, Lucia Mar Unified, Paso Robles Joint Unified, San Luis Coastal Unified, Templeton Unified) 3 from Santa Barbara County (Carpinteria Unified, Lompoc Unified, Santa Barbara Unified) and 2 from Ventura County (Ventura Unified and Simi Valley Unified). An additional 2 districts achieved a score of 95%. Only 3 of the 21 districts did not achieve a score above 90%, and of those only two districts scored below 80%.

# what to do

## Recommendations for Parents and Educators

You can learn about the Education Code criteria for comprehensive sexuality health education, find local statistics about teen pregnancy and STI rates and investigate the latest research on sexuality health in California by visiting [www.publicschoolsproject.org](http://www.publicschoolsproject.org).

If sexuality health education in your district is not 100% in compliance with California law, you can:

- Call your superintendent
- Engage other parents by sharing this report
- Testify before your school board

## Recommendations for School Boards, PTAs and School Site Councils:

Ensure school board policies for sexuality health education are in compliance with California law.

Ensure that every high school student receives comprehensive sexuality health education.

Refer to the Education Standards on Health Education provided by the California Department of Education to draft new curricula that is compliant with the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act (SB 71).

## RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE

### BACHE

[www.bacheinfo.org](http://www.bacheinfo.org)  
Includes tool kit for parents and community members to promote comprehensive sexuality health education in public schools.

### Advocates for Youth

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)  
Includes a Parents' Sex Ed Center, complete curricula for educators, and resources for advocates of sex education.

### California Department of Public Education

[www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/se/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/se/)  
Outlines legal requirements for comprehensive sexual health education and lists resources for quality instructional programs.

### California Department of Public Health

[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tp](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tp)  
Highlights research, reports, and resources related to reproductive health and teen pregnancy specific to California.

### It's All One Curriculum

[www.itsallone.org](http://www.itsallone.org)  
Includes flexible content and 54 ready-to-use activities. Published by the nonprofit Population Council. Also in Spanish ([www.unsolocurriculo.org](http://www.unsolocurriculo.org)).

### Planned Parenthood

[www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)  
Includes extensive STI information and FDA- approved methods of contraception; parent resource center; and lesson plans and classroom materials for educators.

 **Planned Parenthood**  
WE'RE HERE.™

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