

Why Sex Education?



BENEFITS OF SEX EDUCATION

- Human development- reproduction, puberty, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
- Relationships- families, friendships, romantic relationships and dating.
- Personal Skills- communication, negotiation, and decision making.
- Sexual Behavior- abstinence and sexuality through life.

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, almost half of all teenagers become sexually active between the ages of 15 and 19.
- 20% of teens do not use birth control when engaging in sexual activity for the first time.
- 3 in 10 teen American girls will be pregnant at least once before the age of 20.
- There are nearly 750,000 teen pregnancies every year
- Parenthood is the leading reason teen girls drop out of school.
- 50% of teen mothers never graduate from high school.





PARENTS, WHY SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOL?

- You may have concerns that your teen is being taught too much or maybe even too little. You may also feel as a parent that it is your job and responsibility to teach your child the basics of physical sex, and your own personal family values.
- The sex education curriculum that is being taught in school gives your teen a foundation from which he or she can form questions and conversations with you the parent. He or she may bring up examples from school, that was shared to the teen by peers. Having openness on this topic has shown that teens will wait longer to have sex.

TALKING TO YOUR TEEN ABOUT SAFE SEX

- Talk calmly and honestly about safe sex.
- Practice talking about safe sex with another adult before approaching your child.
- Listen to your child and answer his or her questions honestly.
- Topics that are appropriate for safer sex discussion may include: STDs and the prevention, peer pressure to have sex, birth control, along with different forms of sexuality, and date rape.
- Kissing is thought to be safe activity, but herpes can be contracted this way.

IS ABSTINENCE THE ANSWER?

- Abstinence emphasizes that all forms of sexual behaviors should wait until marriage. It teaches that sexual expression outside of marriage could have harmful psychological, social, and physical consequences.
- It does not teach or cover information on sexually transmitted infections, birth control or protection if a teen decides to take part in sexual activities.
- Abstinence does not prepare students to engage in healthy adult relationships.
- Abstinence only education is less effective at preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections than comprehensive sex education.

