

Opt-Out Options

Schools

School boards have the choice to opt out of the new standards. The law requires that they teach the National Sex Education Standards (NSES) or no sex education whatsoever. However, this puts some control into the hands of local officials to decide if their schools will participate in the requirements of the Act.

Parents

The new law allows parents to individually opt their children out of part or all of the new program. If your school board does not opt-out of this program, then opt-out your child(ren) from the new program completely.



What Can You Do?

The Act requires that schools teach to the graphic, NSES, or no sex education at all. However, it also allows parents to opt their children out of part or all of the program. Moreover, entire school districts may opt-out of teaching sex education completely.

- Attend your monthly school board meeting.
- Express your concern that your school may usurp your parental authority by teaching your child explicit, age-inappropriate material.
- If the school does adopt the new standards, opt your children out of the whole program!

*For more information,
contact:*

**Pro-Family Alliance Directors
of Legislative Affairs
(331) 222-2398**

ilpfa.org

**Ralph Rivera:
ralph@ilpfa.org
Molly Rumley:
molly@ilpfa.org**



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by: Pro-Family Alliance



SB 818

In May of 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed SB 818. Proponents have misnamed this new act the "Keeping Youth Healthy and Safe Act". By requiring children to learn about graphic subjects such as **abortion** and **LGBT relationships** from an early age, this act will do anything but keep youth healthy or safe. The new act (signed by Governor Pritzker in August) **requires that all public schools in Illinois teach comprehensive sex education to all students in grades K-12 or teach no sex education at all.** The bill requires that students learn graphic information consistent with the **National Sex Education Standards (NSES)**. These standards were compiled by three non-governmental organizations which openly promote **abortion** and the **LGBT agenda**. This new act will sexualize children as young as five years old. (Visit advocatesforyouth.org for the complete set of NSES standards.)



Problems with SB 818

The new act is anything but age-appropriate. Below are a few examples of the new, required standards:

- **Kindergarten through 2nd** students should be able to define gender, **gender identity**, and gender-role stereotypes.
- **3rd through 5th Grades** students should be able to explain common human sexual development and the role of hormones (e.g. romantic and sexual feelings, **masturbation...** and the potential role of **hormone blockers on young people who identify as transgender**; Define and explain differences between **cisgender, transgender, gender non-binary, gender-expansive, and gender identity**.

FACT: Abstinence is a necessary component of comprehensive sex education, yet the National Sex Education Standards (now the standards for Illinois) teach it only as a means for contraception.

Problems with SB 818 Continued...

- **6th through 8th Grades**– students should be able to define sexual identity and explain a **range of identities related to sexual orientation** (e.g., heterosexual, **bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, two-spirit, asexual, pansexual**);
- Define **vaginal, oral, and anal sex**; Describe the steps to using barrier methods correctly (e.g., external and internal condoms, **dental dams**).
- Describe pregnancy testing, the signs of pregnancy, and pregnancy options, including parenting, **abortion**, and adoption.

