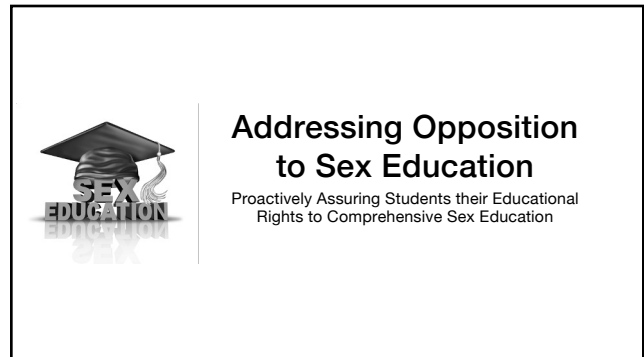


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2

Understanding Opposition

- When there's active opposition to sex education, locate the source(s) and immediate cause
 - Reactions to some sort of information/scandal/media issue
 - Religious, political or cultural group objection
 - Misinformation or information taken out of context

3

- Most schools have an opt-out option for students whose families do not want them to participate in Health programs
- When opposition to a program exists, it's a deliberate attempt to dismantle a program, not an individual's right to not participate
- *Students have both a right and a responsibility to understand their sexuality*

4

Class teaching on homosexuality disturbs parents

♦ A Masconomet parent is concerned about the content of the school's sex education curriculum.

By Brenda Moore Stickney
Eagle-Tribune Correspondent

A Boxford parent is objecting to the sex education curriculum at Masconomet Regional High School. She is also upset with the treatment her son has received from his health teacher and several classmates after expressing his religious beliefs in class.

Boxford parent Gerri White, a mother of a ninth-grader at Masconomet Regional High, first became concerned about the system's health curriculum after her son expressed his opinion on homosexuality to the class.

- *If I sound defensive, it's because I have been unable to defend against these false allegations for so long. Tonight, I'm not here to attack the individuals and organizations who made them; rather, I'm going to make them accountable for their statements*
- *Tonight ends the silence and proliferation of erroneous information*

5

7

- *Dr. Z claims that condoms don't prevent transmission of HIV and other STDs. Look, Dr. Z is a physician- I'm just a Health teacher. Now he's not an infectious disease expert, he's not a psychiatrist, he's not a pediatrician. This isn't about me disagreeing with Dr. Z. The problem is that Dr. Z disagrees with the CDC, the FDA, the NIH, the DPH, the WHO, the AAP and the Surgeon General of the United States.*
- *The dissident view of a local anesthesiologist can't guide a health curriculum.*

8

Reflections and Lesson Learned

- The majority of those in attendance at the forum who objected to sex education did not have children in the school- many were not living in the school district
- Allowing the proliferation of false claims for months was a mistake
- Most who object are devoted to abstinence education, are poorly versed in scientific facts, and can make ludicrous remarks in trying to defend their ideas

9

I think that the idea of presenting how to put a condom on in front of a class of mixed students, boys and girls, is wrong.

If my daughter really needs to see that demonstration I'd rather it be done privately, not in a classroom setting, with Mr. West in his classroom after school when other children aren't around.

WTF?



10

Be Proactive

Make a Sales Pitch

1. Establish a Need
2. Provide a Solution
3. Prepare for Questions

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Invite Parents to a Meeting

- Present the need and importance of sex education
 - In a large group meeting, minority squeaky wheels become outnumbered
 - Allow the majority of parents to push back against opposition so that the school doesn't have to
 - Be sure to invite known supporters- the opposition will be organized, so don't risk the absence of supporters

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Q&A

- Anyone asking a question should first identify themselves and list the grade and school attended by their child
- Parents from outside the district should be seen as such and it should be made clear that their child is not affected by the programs being discussed

14

- False statements must be identified as such without concern for being “nice”
- *That’s not true*
- *That’s an opinion*
- *That’s a cultural/theological/familial belief, not a fact- we teach facts*

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Establish a Need

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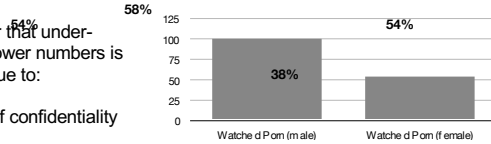
- Sexuality is a normal and valued part of the human experience
- Libido is naturally occurring starting in adolescence
- But humans are blank slates with it comes to sexual knowledge- attitudes and behaviors emerged from what adolescents learn through a variety of accurate and inaccurate sources

18

Use your local Youth Risk Behavior Survey and other measures to support need.

Remember that under-reporting/lower numbers is common due to:

- Distrust of confidentiality
- Date of survey
- Averages including all grades



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- Abstinence until marriage is often the stated goal of those attacking sex education, but:
 - the onset of puberty is earlier than ever
 - the age of first marriage is later than ever
 - the media's representation of sexuality defies abstinence as a norm- because it is not
 - the fact is that most people are sexually active long before marriage

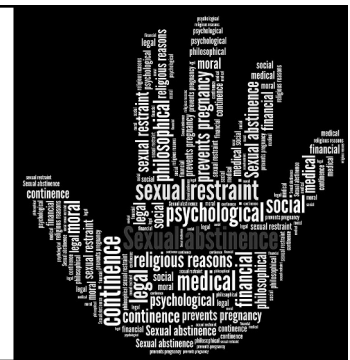
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The Premarital Sexuality Zone

	Onset of Puberty	First Marriage
1900	15	18
2015	12	28

21

Why not
Abstinence
Education?



22

Abstinence Indoctrination

- Promotes values and ethics that are often religiously based; marriage and procreation are seen as the justifications for sexual activity
- Avoids addressing or speaks disparagingly of homosexuality, birth control, teen parenting, abortion
- Distorts the science of sexuality in favor of "viewpoints"
- Generate a negative and shameful view of sexuality, regarding all premarital sexual contact as dangerous and wrong

Comprehensive Sex Education

- Promotes postponement as the best way to avoid the risks of sexual relationships
- Presents scientific information
- Assumes that adolescents have both the right and responsibility to understand their bodies/sexuality
- Promotes values clarification without imposing viewpoints
- Empowers adolescents with their legal rights

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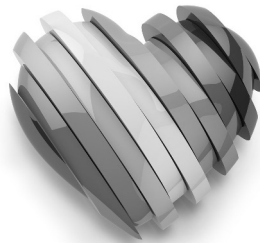
The New Sex Education

Preparing Adolescents for a Sex-Positive Life In the Present Day by Providing Unbiased, Scientific, Health-Empowering Information

25

Sex and Relationships

- Monogamy
- Serial Monogamy
- Friends with Benefits
- Hooking Up



26

Sexually Transmitted Infections



27

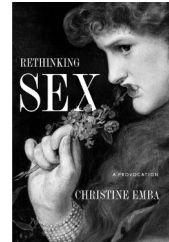
Sex and the Law



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Consent

- Age of Consent
- Ability to Consent
- Varied Levels of Consent



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Porn- the New Availability and the Extreme Content



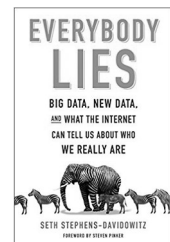
43% of PornHub videos illustrate sexual violence or humiliation of women- and are some of the most popular



30

Pornhub Searches

- For men, 16 of the most popular 100 searches on Pornhub are for incest-related videos, most popular are mother-son videos
- For women, 9 of the most popular searches seek the same content, but with a reversal of genders
- 25% of female searches for straight porn seek violent or humiliation scenes against women, twice as many as men



31

TIME, 2016

- Porn Induced Erectile Dysfunction
- Desensitization
- Porn Addiction
- Distraction from job, school, friends and true romance/sex
- Behavioral and Attitudinal Changes About Sex
- Exploitation and abuse of women, absence of sexual norms



32

Sexting

The risk of sharing images, words and even jokes



33

Verbal or written communication of a sexual nature that is not reasonably intended to provide information and direction for the child's education and physical and emotional well-being.

—MA General Laws definition of sexting

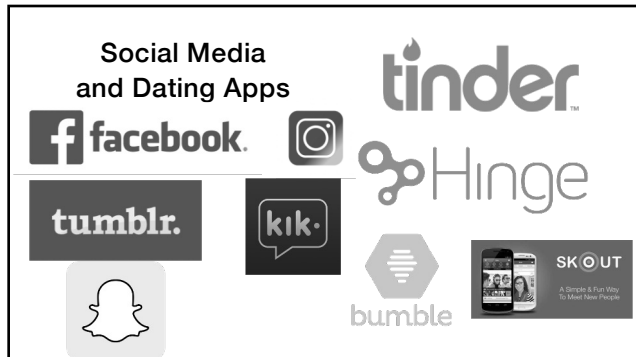
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Surrendering a Phone

- Students are under no legal obligation to surrender a phone without a warrant
- Teachers become liable for loss or damage of confiscated personal property
- Because they are mandated reporters, anything viewed by a teacher that may indicate a crime has been committed must be reported



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Revenge Porn

On Teens Sharing Nude/Sexual Images of Other Teens...

...sex pictures become like currency.

Erica Johnstone, San Francisco attorney

37

Sex After 18 The Business of Sex

38

Making Money with Sex

- At age 18, adult-oriented employment opportunities are possible
- Primarily viewed as an option for the desperate in the past, adult services offer quick cash and is now seen as an opportunity to earn money, boost social media attention, gain celebrity, or enter modeling/acting professions
- These jobs are promoted on sites that are well known and used by teens

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- Webcamming
- Contributing to content-driven sites (OnlyFans, etc)
- Stripping
- Sugar Babies
- Escorting
- Prostitution



40

Provide a Solution

41

Professionals Teach Sex Ed

Parents should acknowledge that their own knowledge of sexuality is limited

Health teachers keep current on issues including contraceptive technologies, STIs, current behavioral trends

All questions have a right to be answered and students have a right to know their rights

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Resources for Staying Current



- Podcasts and YouTube Channels are the most easily accessible tools for staying current with what's happening in sexuality

43

Topics in Comprehensive Health Education

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Every Adolescent is Sexually Active

Thoughts Fantasy Masturbation Flirting Holding Hands Hugging Kissing Making Out Intimate Touching Oral Sex Intercourse

45

- **Reproductive Anatomy/Physiology/Dysfunction**
 - Male and Female Reproductive Systems/Menstrual Cycle
- **Pregnancy**
 - Conception/Pregnancy/Childbirth/Family Planning/Responsibilities of Parenting
- **Contraception**
 - Condom Use/Female Birth Control Options/Choosing and Obtaining Birth Control
- **Romantic Relationships**
 - Communication/Negotiating Intimacy/Respect/Restraint/Responsibility/Postponement
- **Variations**
 - Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity/Asexuality/Avoiding Stereotypes/Respecting Diversity
- **Sexual Abuse**
 - Assault & Battery/Rape/Harassment/Stalking/Reducing Risk/Reporting Abuse/Revenge Porn
- **STIs**
 - HIV/AIDS, HPV, HSV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Monkeypox/Getting Tested/Treated/Talking with Physicians

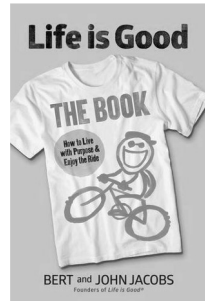
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Being a Sex-Positive Educator

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1. Embrace the Opportunity to Educate

Don't attack your everyday tasks by saying "I have to..."; rather, say "I get to..."



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2. Gender Equality Regarding Sexuality

Expectations should be identical for boys and girls- including responsibility for one's self and others



49

3. Eradicate the Word *Virginity*

Virginity is a construct designed to shape behavior through the risk of shame, embarrassment and social and spiritual humiliation- almost exclusively at females



50

4. Assure Trusted Adults are Available

Ideally it's a parent, but that's not often possible when dealing with sexuality

Teachers, counselors, coaches and other staff member should, at the minimum, be aware of how to refer to appropriate resources



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5. Advocate for Trusted Physicians and Privacy

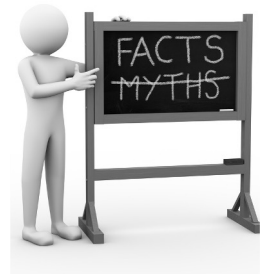
Students should be aware of medical confidentiality (even from parents) and learn to take responsibility for vaccinations, birth control, STD testing and substance use when dealing with medical professionals



52

6. Provide Scientific Information...and Universal Values

Students will likely not follow your path, reach your conclusions nor replicate your values; provide them with the tools to minimize risks, consider the consequences their behaviors, and stay safe



53

6. Talk with Kids about Sex and Relationships

Talk with kids, not at them-remember that they're malleable and currently lack your experience and maturity

Use resources that utilize others' situations (movies, stories, etc)



54

Prepare for Questions

55

Handle Questions Opening and Honestly

- Attempting to distract from or hide information will always raise suspicions
- Make clear the option to opt-out of Health Education
 - Opt-Out is best done for the whole course- trying to prevent any discussion of issues relating to sexuality throughout the course is not appropriate in comprehensive health education
- There is no need for discussion with people who object to the curriculum if their child will not be affected by it

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Support Health Teachers

- The Superintendent, Principal, Department Head, Fellow Teachers, School Nurses, School Physician and Union all have a responsibility to support health teachers who are often intimidated by threats to their integrity and employment when teaching topics deemed controversial
- All teachers need to appreciate that health education is what keeps students in their classes and on a healthy path in life



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Create a Coalition

- Health Teachers
- School Nurses
- School Physician
- School Counselors
- Local Pediatrician
- Supportive Parents



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Free Resources

www.WEPSeducation.com

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