

Healthy Futures for Youth

healthy choices for healthy futures

Summary

California law requires students to receive HIV/AIDS prevention instruction at least once in middle or junior high school and once in high school. The law allows, but does not require, comprehensive sexual health education in grades K-12.

The California Department of Education includes sexuality and HIV/AIDS standards in its Health Education Content Standards. Included are specific "Growth, Development, and Sexual Health" sets of standards for grade 5, grades 7-8, and grades 9-12 that include guidance for instruction.

State Law

Section 51933 of the California Education Code lists the criteria that must be satisfied if a school district opts to teach sex education. <http://law.justia.com/california/codes/edc/51933.html>

Free to Be meets the following requirements of California Education Code 51933:

- Age appropriate
- Medically accurate
- Encourages communication with parents
- Teaches respect for marriage and committed relationships
- Teaches that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only certain way to prevent unintended pregnancy and STDs
- Provides information about the value of abstinence
- Provides information about sexually transmitted diseases and how they are and are not transmitted
- Provides pupils with skills for making and implementing responsible decisions about sexuality

The Program Alignment Grid

The Program Alignment Grid on the following pages is a tool to help education professionals see the alignment between the **Free to Be** program and California laws and standards relating to health education. For each standard listed Free to Be has identified the way in which it has addressed that standard through its programming using activities, curricula, and other materials.

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