

Fast Facts about the California Healthy Youth Act

In January 2016, California adopted a new law covering comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education in public schools, Education Code Sections 51930-51939 (AB 329). Here are some facts about the law.

- *Comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education is required at least once in middle school and at least once in high school.* Abstinence-only instruction is not permitted.
- *All instruction in all grades must be age-appropriate and medically accurate* (meaning accepted by organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics) and *may not promote religious doctrine.* All elements of the instruction must be in alignment with each other.
- *Sexual health education must respect and address the needs of students of all genders and sexual orientations.* Instruction must affirmatively recognize different sexual orientations and be inclusive of same-sex relationships when providing examples of couples or relationships. It must also teach about gender, gender expression, and gender identity, and explore the harm of negative gender stereotypes.
- *Beginning in grade 7, instruction must include information about the safety and effectiveness of all FDA-approved methods of preventing pregnancy and transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (including condoms, contraceptives, and antiretroviral treatment) and abstinence.* It must also include information about HIV, pregnancy, sexual harassment, sexual assault, healthy relationships, and sex trafficking, as well as local resources for accessing care and students' rights to access care.
- *Parents must be notified that their student will receive sexual health and HIV prevention education and be allowed to view the materials prior to instruction.* Parents/guardians may remove their student from the instruction by submitting a request in writing.
- *Teachers or outside speakers must have training in and knowledge of the most recent medically accurate research on the topic.* District must also periodically provide training to all district personnel who provide HIV prevention instruction. Outside organizations or speakers must also follow all laws when they present.
- *Instruction must be appropriate for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students of all races and ethnic and cultural backgrounds.* Schools must make sure that all students can get sexual health education and HIV prevention education in a way that works for them.