

about recent developments in Michigan public education

So your children attend public schools? That is awesome! Michigan is a great state – at the moment – for allowing parents the freedom to choose the best form of education for your child. We are thankful for your watchful presence in the public school system and hope the following will assist you in making sure you are aware of what is transpiring.

SUMMARY

In 1976, the Michigan Legislature put into law mandating Health Education for graduation for Michigan students.

In 2007, the Michigan Legislature and Governor Granholm revised the school code to include Sex Education as an elective class with tight restrictions (MCL 380.1507).

- A “Sex Education” class could be provided but only as a stand-alone, optional elective class.
- The Health class would cover items like time management, stress management, importance of vision and dental care, the dangers of drugs, etc.
- Sex education topics allowed were specifically outlined which included stressing abstinence, family planning, human sexuality, and the danger of sexually transmitted diseases, etc.

They determined that if Sex-Education was going to be allowed in a local public school, that school was required – by law – to have a *Sex-Education Advisory Board* (SEAB).

This board – by law – must be made up of Clergy, parents, local citizens who would then review the sex-education material and determine what was best suited for their local community.

GOVERNING BOARDS

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is overseen by the State Board of Education. The SBE is a body of 8 *elected* individuals (by the Michigan public) who then vote on and adopt various policies. They do not make laws, but their decisions guide the local school districts.

Each local school district has its own School Board and they are ultimately responsible for what policies are adopted (curriculum, standards, etc). Often schools will look to the MDE for their recommendations but by law – they do not have to abide by their curriculum recommendations.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

In September 2025 a new Health Standard was proposed by the MDE to the State Board of Education that would include:

- Incorporating sexual topics into the required Health Class
- Initiating discussions about gender identity and sexual reproduction with students beginning in the 3rd grade
- Teaching children to “coach” their parents on political and environmental ideology
- Elevating the importance of other “trusted adults” input in a child’s life (other than their parents)

On November 13, 2025, despite a massive outcry from the public opposing these standards, the State Board of Education adopted these new Health Standards. It is possible they are now coming to your local school district.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT?

Parents you are needed. Look for your local School Board and leadership to possibly:

- Adopt these new Health Standards
- Integrate Sex-ed topics into Health classes even if they also offer an elective Sex-Ed class (the new standards blur the lines that were previously in place)

The law (established in 2007) still stands: if a Sex-Education class is taught, it must have an SEAB. But you as parents should now be on the watch: Health class – and other classes – could be discussing gender identity, sexual orientation, woke ideology and adults encouraging kids to challenge their parents’ authority.

THE LAW SAYS:

According to Michigan Law, Health Class should cover:

“The program shall be designed to educate youth with regard to critical health problems and shall include... drugs, narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, mental health, dental health, vision care, nutrition, disease prevention and control, accident prevention and related health and safety topics.” –MCL 388.382, expressly incorporated by MCL 380.1170

In the new Health Standards, sexual and gender topics are mentioned 253 times. In comparison, all “health topics required by law” combined are only discussed 151 times.

Source: www.slgwitness.com/mi-health-ed-standards

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Michigan Law: You as the parent have the full fundamental right to make decisions for your child’s education under MCL 380.10 (if you ever have a school disputing this let us know!).

- Your local school district does NOT have to adopt or use these new Health Standards, but if they do, expect them to be incorporated into every aspect of the Health Class.
- They will tell you “you can opt out” but Health Class is required for graduation and the way these Health Standards are written you will not be able to easily opt out on a cut and dry timetable. **You** will have to check in weekly with the teacher to know what they plan to teach that week.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

- Does our school have a Sex -Ed Advisory Board (SEAB)?
- Who is on this board and when do their terms expire?
- When does the board meet?
- How does one apply to serve on this board? I am interested.
- I would like to see the curriculum for both Health Class and Sex Education Class.

Let us know what you discover
ctv@ctvmichigan.org

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO

- **Run for your local school board** or recruit someone else and help them win. Please let us know and we will connect you to great resources.
- **Start to talk about these things with your community** (call into local radio shows, write a letter to the editor for your local newspapers, talk to your Clergy and offer to be a liaison to the church leadership regarding these important issues).
- **Monitor State Board of Education** agendas and minutes www.michigan.gov/mde
- **Share your story of any challenges** in policy with your local school board so we can document the issues:
www.saltlightglobal.org/share-your-education-story

**Review the standards,
and stay informed.**
Stay in touch and follow us.

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