



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #9

Implementation of State Standardized Comprehensive Sex Education

Submitted by Marc Adlaon

Submitted September 21, 2018

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments:

- 1. Whereas,** the United States has an average teen pregnancy rate of 20.3 per 1000 females aged 15-19 as of 2016; ¹
- 2. Whereas,** the state of Alaska has an average teen pregnancy rate of 25.8 per 1000 females aged 15-19 as of 2016; ¹
- 3. Whereas,** roughly 82% of teenage pregnancies are unintentional; ²
- 4. Whereas,** young women who are teen mothers are less likely to attain a high school diploma by age twenty two than those who are not; ²
- 5. Whereas,** less than 2% of teenage mothers complete post secondary education by the age of thirty; ²
- 6. Whereas,** children born to young mothers are more likely to be premature and/or underweight, putting them at a high risk for further health problems; ²
- 7. Whereas,** Alaska ranks first in the United States in STI rates; ³
- 8. Whereas,** Alaska is first in the United States in Chlamydia rates with 771.6 people infected per 100,000 as of 2016; ³
- 9. Whereas,** Alaska is fourth in the United States in Gonorrhea rates with 196.9 people infected per 100,000 as of 2016; ³
- 10. Whereas,** the number of new cases of Gonorrhea in Alaska has increased by 51% since 2017; ⁴
- 11. Whereas,** in June 2018 the state Department of Health and Social Services had issued an alert for a Syphilis outbreak, as reports by that time for Syphilis had already superseded all reports from the prior year; ⁴

12. **Whereas**, young people of ages 15-24 account for 62% of Chlamydia cases and 52% of Gonorrhea cases; ⁵
13. **Whereas**, the state standard curriculum for physical education and health does not include anything regarding sexual education; ⁶
14. **Whereas**, the Department of Education and Early Development states the purpose of the physical and health education standards are for students to “learn skills they will use to make healthy choices throughout their lifetime”; ⁶
15. **Whereas**, STIs and young pregnancies affect physical, mental, emotional, and social health;
16. **Whereas**, states that emphasized abstinence sex education had higher rates of teen pregnancy than any other states; ⁷
17. **Whereas**, abstinence only education stigmatizes sex; ²
18. **Whereas**, this stigma creates societal pressures that prevents healthy discussion regarding sexual health;
19. **Whereas**, abstinence only sex education reinforces stereotypical gender roles; ⁸
20. **Whereas**, abstinence only sex education discriminates against LGBTQ+ people; ⁸
21. **Whereas**, research found that eleven out of thirteen popular abstinence education curriculum contained wrong and misleading information; ⁸
22. **Whereas**, comprehensive sex education can be defined as “A planned, sequential K-12 curriculum that is part of a comprehensive school health education approach which addresses age-appropriate physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of human sexuality”; ⁹
23. **Whereas**, students who have a comprehensive sex education are more likely to have delayed time until first occurrence of sexual activity; ¹⁰
24. **Whereas**, abstinence only sex education has little evidence in delaying sexual intercourse and reducing frequency; ¹⁰
25. **Whereas**, those who receive comprehensive sex education are more likely to use contraceptives then students who have not; ¹⁰
26. **Whereas**, due to the state having no sex education standard, it’s up to school districts to determine if and how sex education is taught and implemented; ⁶
27. **Whereas**, some districts do not have the financial resources to provide their own competent comprehensive sex education;
28. **Whereas**, western Alaska has a disproportionate distribution of Alaska's STI and teen pregnancy rate, in part due to an inability to provide comprehensive sex education; ¹¹
29. **Whereas**, isolated communities don’t have immediate access to STI and/or pregnancy testing;
30. **Whereas**, not having a standard for sexual education is counterproductive to the Alaska Education Challenge Student Success Committees goal to provide equity of access to quality education;¹²
31. **Whereas**, if a parent feels strongly enough against their child receiving sex ed, they hold the right to withdraw the child from the lesson according to Alaska Statute 14.03.016;
32. **Whereas**, abstinence only sex education has rarely equated to a delay in sexual intercourse;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the AASG General Assembly formally supports that the state of Alaska adopt and mandate comprehensive sex education standards, policy, and legislation;

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, will be sent to the following:

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12. *Office of the Governor*, gov.alaska.gov/administration-focus/alaskas-education-challenge/