



Texas Youth Need Age-Appropriate, Evidence-Based Sex Education

Every ten minutes a Texas teen gets pregnant.¹

Texas has received more federal abstinence-only dollars than any other state but still has **the nation's third-highest teen birth rate**² and the **highest rate of multiple births to teens**.³

Teen childbearing has cost Texas taxpayers at least \$1 billion a year.⁴

But Texas Is Failing Teens and Families

96 percent of Texas school districts **teach abstinence-only or nothing at all** in sex ed classes.⁵

41 percent of the materials used in those classes **contain factual errors**, such as exaggerations of the failure rate of contraception and false information about how HIV is spread.⁶

TFN supports the following bills, which would reform sex education in Texas schools:

[HB 1624](#) by Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, and [SB 852](#) by Sens. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, would require schools that teach sex education to teach age-appropriate, evidence-based information.

[HB 827](#) by Rep. Joe Farias, D-San Antonio, would require a public school district's School Health Advisory Council to review and approve any presentation on human sexuality by an individual or organization not affiliated with the district.

[HB 828](#) by Rep. Joe Farias, D-San Antonio, would require school districts to work with their School Health Advisory Councils to prepare written notice to parents about the district's instruction on human sexuality.

[HB 1255](#) by Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, and [SB 585](#) by Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, would require all sex education instruction in public schools to be evidence-based. The bill also requires that a detailed description of the content of the district's sex education instruction be included in a notification letter sent to parents.

TFN opposes the following bill, which would cripple sex education in Texas schools:

[HB 2402](#) by Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, would change existing law to require parents to proactively opt their children in to any sex education instruction (current law has in place an opt-out provision for parents).

¹ Texas Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/famplan/tpp.shtm>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vitalstats.htm>

³ The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, <http://www.txcampaign.org/pages/facts#3>

⁴ The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/costs/pdf/states/texas/fact-sheet.pdf>

⁵ *Just Say Don't Know*, www.justsaydontknow.org

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What Do Texans Want?

Do you support or oppose teaching about contraception, such as condoms and other birth control, along with abstinence, in high school sex education classes?

Support: 80% / Oppose: 19%⁷

	Support for Comprehensive Sex Education in Texas Public High Schools	
	Support (%)	Oppose (%)
Total	80	19
<u>Party ID</u>		
Democrats	92	6
Independents	86	13
Republicans	68	31
<u>Ideology</u>		
Liberal	97	3
Moderate	93	6
Conservative	63	35
<u>Religion</u>		
Protestant	77	21
Catholic	82	16
Other Christian	73	25
Evangelical Christian	66	34
Mainline Protestant	84	16
<u>Race</u>		
White	78	21
African American	87	10
Hispanic	85	13
<u>Urban/Rural</u>		
Metro	81	17
Suburban/Exurban	77	22
Rural	77	23

⁷ Poll conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, May 4-12, 2010, 601 likely Texas voters, with a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.