



Public Schools of North Carolina

# HIV/STD and Unintended Pregnancy Prevention in North Carolina Public Education

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# GS § 115C-81(e1)

- Guidance for instruction of abstinence until marriage, HIV/STD and teen pregnancy prevention as part of a Healthful Living course (K-high school)
- State Board of Education (SBE) is charged to develop objectives for instruction in these topics (Healthful Living Standard Course of Study (HL SCOS))



## GS § 115C-81(e1)

- SBE may evaluate curricula/materials to develop a recommended list of one or more approved abstinence curricula.
- SBE may develop an abstinence program to include on the recommended list that includes, in appropriate grades and classes, the following (“State A-H”)



# GS § 115C-81(e1)(4)

- Abstinence from sexual intercourse outside of marriage as the expected standard
- Techniques and strategies to deal with peer pressure
- positive benefits of abstinence until marriage and the risks of premarital sexual activity;



## GS § 115C-81(e1)(4)

- Abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain means of avoiding out-of-wedlock pregnancy, STDs, and other associated health and emotional problems;
- A mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage is the best lifelong means of avoiding HIV/STDs;



## GS § 115C-81(e1)(4)

- Reasons, skills, and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent;
- Allow for interaction between the parent or legal guardian and the student; and
- Provides factually accurate information related to human reproduction



## GS § 115C-81(e1)(6, 8, 9)

- To expand the Healthful Living course to include comprehensive sex education, a local board of education must hold a public hearing.
- Contraceptives, including condoms, shall not be available or distributed on school property.
- Students may receive information on obtaining contraceptive and abortion referral services, if local board of education allows.



## GS § 115C-81(e1)(8)

- Any instruction in the use of contraceptives or prophylactics must:
  - provide accurate statistical information on their effectiveness and failure rates for preventing pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS in actual use among adolescents\*.
  - explain clearly the difference between risk reduction and risk elimination through abstinence.

\*The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the most current available information at the beginning of each school year



## GS § 115C-81(e1)(7)

- Each school year, before a student participates in an abstinence or comprehensive sex education program, parents may review the objectives and materials and provide or withhold their consent to the students' participation in any or all of these programs.



# HL SCOS: 7th Grade

- Define abstinence as voluntarily refraining from intimate sexual contact that could result in unintended pregnancy or disease and analyze the benefits of abstinence from sexual activity until marriage.
- Evaluate how a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage is the best lifelong means of avoiding HIV/AIDS/STDs. (repeated in 8th grade and high school)
- Analyze the effects of culture, media, and family values (by discussing information with parents/caregivers or trusted adults) on decisions related to becoming or remaining abstinent



# HL SCOS: 7th Grade

- Analyze the effectiveness and failure rates of condoms as a means of preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- Analyze the risks of premarital sexual activity.
- Demonstrate techniques and strategies for becoming or remaining abstinent by dealing with peer pressure.
- Identify tolerance and advocate to others the importance of tolerance in a healthy society respectful of differences and diversity.



# HL SCOS: 8th Grade

- Summarize how HIV/STDs are transmitted and demonstrate skills and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from sexual activity to avoid STDs and unintended pregnancy. Encourage students to discuss selected skills and strategies with their parents, caregivers, or a trusted adult.
- Predict how intolerance affects others and demonstrate strategies for promoting tolerance.



# HL SCOS: 8th Grade

- Compare and contrast methods of contraception, their effectiveness and failure rates, and the risks associated with different methods of contraception, as a means of preventing HIV/AIDS/STDs.
- Determine the relationship between alcohol and other drug use and other health risks (including....sexual risk behaviors...).



# HL SCOS: High School

- Demonstrate and refine skills and strategies for becoming or remaining abstinent from sexual activity, which is the most certain means of avoiding unintended pregnancy and HIV/AIDS/STDs.
- Analyze causes, consequences, and prevention of major health risks behaviors for own age group, including the transmission of HIV.
- Predict situations that could lead to pressures for sex and create alternatives or ways to avoid these situations, include feedback from parents/caregivers or trusted adults.



# 2006 School Health Education Profiles Survey

- 18% of schools teach a curriculum that is more restrictive than the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study (HL SCOS)
- 36% of schools do not teach the effectiveness and failure rates of birth control, including condoms
- 7% do not teach transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs
- 11% do not teach students how to deal with the pressures to have sex
- 43% do not teach students how to talk to parents about sex and relationship issues.



# 2003 NC Parent Opinion Survey

- 90.5%\* of parents support sex education
  - Transmission and prevention of STDs (98.5%)
  - Transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS (98%)
  - How to deal with pressure to have sex (98%)
  - How to talk with parents about sex & relationship (97%)
  - Abstinence-Until Marriage (91%)
  - Effectiveness and failure rates of birth control methods, including condoms (89%)

*\* Strongly or somewhat agree*



# 2003 NC Parent Opinion Survey

- Beyond the HL SCOS
  - How to get tested for HIV/AIDS & STDs (88%)
  - How to use other birth control methods, such as birth control pill (81%)
  - How to use condoms (80%)
  - Where to get birth control, including condoms (74%)
  - Classroom demonstrations of how to use a condom correctly (57%)



## DPI Initiatives-\$1.6 Million

- Federal Abstinence Grant
  - Allocated to Local Education Agencies (LEA)
- CDC-DASH HIV Grant
  - HIV Prevention
  - Promoting Parent Involvement in Abstinence
  - Promoting Science-Based Approaches to HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- NASBE HIV Module
  - Clarification of guidelines for School Administrators



# Collaboration

- State Advisors on Adolescent Sexual Health (SAASH)
  - White Paper shared with SBE
- HIV Statewide Community Planning Group (SCPG)
- Children’s AIDS Network/Community Advisory Board
- NC School Health Training Center (ASU)
  - Unwrapping the Mystery of State Guidelines
  - How to Effectively Hold a Public Hearing
  - Increased Comfort Teaching Sexuality Education
  - How to Be an Ally for GLBTQ youth
  - *Making a Difference and Making Proud Choices*



# Conclusion

- Prevention efforts must come from a community perspective
- Schools are in a unique position to provide medically accurate, skills based, age appropriate HIV/STD and teen pregnancy prevention education to all youth, with parent consent
- Scope & content of school programs should be locally determined and consistent with parental and community values



# Resources

## Local Boards of Education

### GS § 115c-81

[www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter\\_115C/GS\\_115C-81.html](http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_115C/GS_115C-81.html)

### NCAG 63

[www.ncdoj.com/legalservices/lg\\_legalopinions.jsp](http://www.ncdoj.com/legalservices/lg_legalopinions.jsp) Reference # 332

## Healthful Living Standard Course of Study

[www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving)

## DPI-NC Healthy Schools Data Sources

[www.nchealthyschools.org/data](http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data)



# SBE & DPI Contacts

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