



HOW IS SEX EDUCATION ADOPTED IN TEXAS?

Texas law requires local school districts to follow a specific process when adopting sex education curriculum. This process is described in the Texas Education Code 28.004. Each step of this process offers an opportunity for public input. Many of these steps changed in the 2021 legislative session.

How the process works

1. The school board adopts a formal resolution noting the process that the district will use to adopt sex education curriculum.
2. The school board issues a resolution directing the SHAC to review curriculum and make a recommendation.
3. The SHAC reviews curriculum and holds at least two public meetings before selecting their recommendation.
4. The SHAC presents the curriculum recommendation to the school board. The recommended curriculum must be made publicly available in this process.
5. The school board adopts the curriculum through a record vote at a public meeting.
6. Before campuses provide the new curriculum, they must send extensive notices to parents/guardians describing the content that will be taught. Parents/guardians must provide consent to actively opt their children into sex ed class.

What is a School Board?

A school board, also known as a board of trustees, is a group of individuals elected to make decisions about a local school district. There are more than 1,000 independent school districts across Texas.

What is a SHAC?

Each Texas school district is required by state law to have a School Health Advisory Council, or SHAC. A SHAC is made up of parent and community volunteers, as well as district staff, appointed by the school board. SHACs are charged with ensuring that local values are reflected in health education.

In addition to sex ed, SHACS make recommendations on health topics like suicide prevention, opioid prevention, and recess policy.

Advocating for Sex Education

Parents, students, and community members can play a role in advocating for high quality sex education in their district.

- Look for groups who are already engaged in this topic in your district. They can help you stay informed on things like important dates for advocacy.
- Apply to serve on your district SHAC.
- Look online or reach out to the district to find out when the SHAC is meeting and what is on the meeting agenda.
- Consider attending the SHAC public meetings to voice your support for medically accurate sex education.
- Write a letter to your school board members letting them know that you support medically accurate sex education for your children.
- Reach out to your friends, neighbors and community members to encourage them to engage in this process.
- If you are a student enrolled in the school, keep your classmates informed about what is going on and encourage them to attend meetings or reach out to school board members.

Questions to Ask

- What sex education curriculum is being proposed?
- Who designed or is offering the curriculum?
- Who will teach this curriculum?
- Is the curriculum medically accurate? Has it been evaluated for effectiveness?
- Does the curriculum align with new Health TEKS, including instruction on topics like contraception?
- Does the curriculum use shame-based techniques?



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