

## *Comprehensive Sex Education in Jefferson County Public Schools*

**What is Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)?** CSE, also known as “sexual risk reduction” (SRR) education, does not describe a single curriculum but rather many different curricula that share certain features. **A central tenet of CSE is that adolescents—if equipped with so-called proper information—can and should decide for themselves when and with whom they are ready to have sexual contact.** CSE programs advocate the use of contraception, with particular emphasis on condom use, as the most effective means of preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. **CSE programs also include other lessons or discussions on topics that most parents don’t want anyone—other than themselves or their faith communities—talking to their children about, including: abortion, anal and oral sex, masturbation, different “family structures” and sexual orientation and gender identity.** CSE programs encourage students to find out more about sex and sexuality on their own time, directing them to dangerous websites and message boards. **In short, CSE normalizes all forms of teen sexual activity and exploration.**

Study after study now shows that CSE programs are ineffective—or worse—at equipping teens to delay sexual onset and avoid pregnancy.

For a thorough understanding of the history and strategies of CSE, please read “You’re Teaching My Child What?” by Miriam Grossman, M.D. See also this video: [The War on Children: Exposing the CSE Agenda](#).

**Who’s behind the push for comprehensive sex-ed (CSE) within JCPS?** [Louisville Sex Ed Now](#) (LSEN), a coalition of Planned Parenthood, the Fairness Campaign, the ACLU, and others, are pushing to mandate CSE in the Jefferson County Public School system.

LSEN and their supporters have unleashed a two-pronged approach, with one prong focused on the Board of Education, and the second focused on lower-levels within JCPS, from the Superintendent down to the classrooms. While LSEN and its supporters are coordinated, in large part the Board of Education is not fully aware of LSEN’s lower-level efforts, and the lower-levels within JCPS are not fully aware of LSEN’s movements at the Board level. This is to say that the problem we face is not monolithic, but rather opportunity remains to educate employees and officials at all levels of JCPS, from Board members down to classroom teachers, and to gain allies in the effort to stop CSE.

**What does this two-pronged approach look like?** At the Board level—LSEN has [proposed CSE guidelines](#) that would purport to govern all decisions on sex-ed curriculum. LSEN claims that: 1) there is a need for universal, common instruction to all JCPS students on matters of sex and sexuality; and 2) that instruction should be CSE-based. Both of LSEN’s claims are dangerously wrong. Instruction on matters touching so directly on morality belongs naturally, fundamentally, and primarily to parents.

### **What’s been JCPS’s response to LSEN so far?**

1. **Lower Level Response.** With little or no notification to parents, the lower-levels of JCPS have held two **mandatory** sex-ed professional development sessions for all JCPS health teachers. During the first session, held in late November 2016, JCPS instructed health teachers to evaluate five sex-ed curricula for possible implementation at the teachers’ schools. Four of the five curricula are CSE-type curricula. Instruction in these curricula has already begun at many JCPS schools.

Elizabeth Schroeder, Ed.D., MSW, led the second session on May 2, 2017. Schroeder is the former Associate Director of Education and Training for Planned Parenthood of New York City; former Director of Special Projects at Planned Parenthood Federation of America; and a former director of ANSWER, “a national sexuality education organization dedicated to providing and promoting

**unfettered access to comprehensive sexuality education to young people and the adults who teach them.”** She has also worked closely with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—an organization that human rights groups have long decried for, among other things, its ties to China’s former one-child coercive abortion policy.

2. **Board-level Response.** Meanwhile, the Jefferson County Board of Education has referred LSEN’s proposed CSE guidelines to its Policy Committee, which will make a recommendation to the full Board regarding the fate of the guidelines. The Board may accept or reject the Committee’s recommendation. Policy Committee Members include: Linda Duncan (chairperson), Chris Kolb, and Benjamin Geis.

**Apart from the obvious problem—that the substance of CSE is highly objectionable and offensive—what are some of the other major problems with LSEN’s push and JCPS’s response?** First, JCPS has seen little need to include parents within the process, or even to make them aware of it. Second, under the public school structure established by Kentucky law, each school’s “site-based decision-making council” (SBDM) is given the right and the duty to make decisions about the type of sex-education curriculum that is appropriate for its own student population. Board-level or district-wide policies, “curricular frameworks,” or mandatory teacher trainings based on pre-selected, agenda-based curricula are both illegal and wrong-headed. JCPS’s actions, which have circumvented SBDM councils, allow LSEN-sympathetic officials to bypass more easily parents, teachers, and principals who would object to CSE-type curricula on the front end.

**What’s our end game, and how can I help?** The goal is to stop all Board-level or district-wide action with regard to CSE implementation (including Board-level guidelines, curricular frameworks, or mandatory teacher trainings). A secondary, long-term goal is to encourage, society-wide, a richer, more humane understanding and approach to human relationships and sexuality, one that does not “individualize” what is by nature designed to draw people into self-giving relationships: women and men, parents and children. **Here’s how you can help:**

1. [Sign the petition](#) opposing CSE within JCPS.
2. [Learn more.](#) Gain a fuller understanding of the issues by [reading this document](#).
3. [Further action.](#) In the document linked in 2. above, you will also find a complete list of “action items,” helpful instructions and contact information, and a list of resources that will help you become more thoroughly familiar with CSE.

# Support Prevention – Save Lives Demand Comprehensive Sex Education

\* Kentucky ranks **6th** for teen births

\* **44.7%** of Kentucky high school students report ever having sexual intercourse

\* Jefferson County has the highest number of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis cases in Kentucky

You can make the difference. Show your support for comprehensive sex education by signing our petition.



Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky

## Contact your school board member today! Comprehensive Sex Ed **Saves Lives**

Teens need and deserve responsible sex education that includes information about abstinence A protection from sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

Fill out this petition to support comprehensive sex education to ensure that teens have the information they need to make responsible decisions. Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky will share this petition with your local school board. Your contact information will not be shared or sold.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Phone Number\*

Signature

I'd like to volunteer  Yes! I would like to receive information from Planned Parenthood

I'd like to share my story  Fund, Planned Parenthood's advocacy and political arm.

\*By providing my mobile number I agree to receive calls and texts from PP organizations that may be automatically dialed or prerecorded.