



Massachusetts  
Family Institute

# MFI Brief

## WHY WE OPPOSE THE SEX EDUCATION MANDATE (HB410/SB2475) *"An Act Relative to Healthy Youth"*

The Massachusetts legislature is considering mandating a controversial sex education framework for public schools across the state. Unlike topics such as math and science, there is no public consensus regarding sex education. Currently, local schools can decide for themselves what and when to teach the children in their community about sex, based on the unique needs of their student populations and desires of their parents. This bill would eliminate that right.



### **Loss of Local Control**

If passed, this bill would remove control of health education from locally elected school committees and force schools to use curricula aligned with the "standards" of the state Health Curriculum Frameworks.

The bill gives complete control over local sex education curricula to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which would "ensure compliance" with the frameworks. DESE has already published which specific curricula they believe are "consistent with" the frameworks, and the content is VERY disturbing.

### **Problematic Topics Required**

HB410/SB2475 mandates instruction on several topics that the average parent or school committee member would find objectionable. Many of the required topics are designed to be taught in a way that conveys implicit approval of sexual activity among very young students, despite the legal age of consent being 16 years old.

It grants DESE full authority to require classes for children as young as 12 years old to teach:

- How to obtain an abortion without parental consent or knowledge.
- How to engage in "safe" anal sex and oral sex.
- Encouragement of alternative sexual behaviors to avoid pregnancy.

In addition, this bill specifically requires classes to include "**affirmative recognition** that people have different sexual orientations, **gender identities**, and gender expressions."

Promoting homosexual and bisexual sexual acts as normal, natural, and healthy contradicts the religious teachings of many parents, and restricts their constitutional right to determine the moral upbringing of their children.

**Please oppose the Sex Ed Mandate and any other efforts to remove control of health education from local parents and school boards.**

### **Consider asking your state legislators the following questions:**

- 1) **Have they had an opportunity to read the MA Framework, which this bill would force schools to comply with?**  
Answer: No. The new Framework is not yet finished. A panel is still working on the updates that are set to be released late 2020.
- 2) **Do they think it is appropriate to teach 12 and 13-year-olds about oral to anal sex?**  
Answer: In the past, DESE has rated Planned Parenthood's Get Real curriculum "excellent," even though it contains material that a) encourages sexual role playing in a 7th grade classroom, b) recommends 11-year-olds read a book with pornographic illustrations of teenagers masturbating, and c) shows 12-year-olds how to use grocery store saran wrap as a prophylactic for oral to anal sex. Signing off on SB 2459 means okaying material like this.
- 3) **What is preventing schools in their districts from using sexual health curriculum "consistent with the framework," such that they believe this state-wide legislation is necessary?**  
Answer: Nothing. There is nothing currently that prevents schools from using curricula that aligns with the Framework if that is what parents and educators want for their children. Legally, the Sex Ed Mandate serves no purpose other than to bypass parents and enforce a top-down, state-wide mandate.

**VOTE "NO" ON HB410/SB2475**