



# NEW JERSEY'S SEX ED REPORT CARD

Student Name:	<u>NJ Sex Ed</u>
Overall Grade:	<u>C</u>
Topic	2019 Grade
State Law	<b>B</b>
Curricula	<b>C</b>
Consistency	<b>C</b>
Time Allotted	<b>C</b>
Educator Training	<b>C</b>
Parental Support	<b>A</b>
Content	<b>C</b>
Inclusion	<b>C</b>

**Young people deserve to have the information, resources, and skills they need to protect their health and build their future – without shame or judgment.**

In New Jersey, we know a lot of great sex education is being provided, but we also know that sex education can be underfunded, not prioritized, and often politicized. From government at all levels, young people need sex education policies and funding that provide access to the full range of topics and skills they need to navigate life.

**Based on the findings of New Jersey's Sex Ed Report Card, there are multiple areas for improvement.**

**In comparison to other states, New Jersey has strong sex education policy on the books – but there is work to be done.** While not identical to other “abstinence-only” programs in other states, state law requires abstinence be stressed; this can still shame young people and be ineffective at preventing risk behaviors. Because decisions about sex education are made at the district level, sex education is not provided in a consistent manner from district to district, or even school to school or teacher to teacher. And teachers want more training, guidance, and resources to teach effective sex ed. **Overall, there is a desire from both students and parents to prioritize sex education in schools.**

## Key Recommendations

1. Remove the requirement in state statute that sex education programs and curricula must stress abstinence.
2. Remove the requirement in state statute that sex education programs and curricula must highlight failure rates of contraceptives.
3. Provide recommended curricula for sex education for all schools at each grade level, and strengthen accountability measures for sex education standards.
4. Establish a database or widely accessible source of high-quality sex education materials.
5. Establish a system to monitor and assess the actual content being delivered in classrooms.
6. Allow for more classroom hours on a regular basis dedicated to teaching sex education.
7. Increase financial resources for sex education teacher training and professional development.
8. Collaborate with parents and partner to advocate for increased funding and resources for sex education programming.
9. Provide statewide standards that include specific content guidelines about LGBTQ issues at age-appropriate grade levels.
10. Utilize a trauma-informed framework throughout sex education programs, and train all school staff in educating with a trauma-informed approach.
11. Ensure that all students in all schools are receiving sex education, including students with differing abilities.