The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization founded in 2009 to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Texas through:

**Research & Data**
We analyze and disseminate data on teen pregnancy and teen births, including prevention strategies proven effective globally, nationally and here in the Lone Star State.

**Advocacy & Public Policy**
We advocate for public policies that increase young Texans’ access to knowledge and healthcare to prevent unintended pregnancy.

**Strategic Collaboration**
We partner with others across the state on programs designed to leverage local and regional resources with statewide systems change.

**Training & Events**
We ensure our partners have the opportunity to learn from one another and access the resources they need to advance the work in their home communities.
About Healthy Futures of Texas

**Youth Education**
We work with community colleges, local school districts and community organizations to offer sex education and STI prevention information.

**Parent Education**
We work with parents at organizations across the state to offer abstinence-plus education to caregivers and families.

**Youth Development**
We empower young people to become leaders of change who have firm plans for their future and are sustained civic leaders.

**Curriculum Design**
We develop abstinence-plus sex education curriculum that's used in more than 20 Texas school districts.

**Advocacy & Policy**
We build relationships with local and state policy makers to improve preventative healthcare for all Texas, especially women and young people.
Ahead of us this afternoon...

- Why sex education matters
- Current landscape of Texas sex ed policy
- State Board of Education
- TEKS revision process
- How to get involved
- Q&A – Use the Q&A button below to ask questions
Disclosure to the Learner

1. Successful completion of this continuing education activity requires participant to:
   • Complete online registration
   • Listen live to entire webinar
   • Complete participant evaluation

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
   The following individuals indicated a potential conflict of interest:
   • Jen Biundo: The Texas Campaign, her employer, received an advocacy grant from Merck in 2019.
   • Molly Clayton: The Texas Campaign, her employer, received an advocacy grant from Merck in 2019.

3. Commercial Support
   This educational activity received no commercial support.
Disclosure to the Learner

4. **Non-Endorsement Statement**
   Accredited status does not imply endorsement of any commercial products or services by the Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service; Texas Medical Association; or American Nurse Credentialing Center.

5. **Off Label Use**
   The speakers did not disclose the use of products for a purpose other than what it had been approved for by the Food and Drug Administration.

6. **Expiration for awarding contact hours/credits**
   You will be reminded by email to complete the webinar evaluations by Tuesday, Feb. 25.
Continuing Medical Education:
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) through the joint providership of The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service and Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited by TMA to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Continuing Nursing Education:
The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 1.00 contact hour of Continuing Nursing Education.

Other Credits Offered:
Social Workers
Certified Health Education Specialists
Certified in Public Health
Licensed Professional Counselors
Why does sex education matter?
Texas consistently has one of the highest rates of both teen birth and repeat teen birth in the nation.

Texas rates declined by about half in the last decade, mirroring statewide and nationwide trends. About 2.5% of Texas teens aged 15-19 experience a pregnancy each year, down from 6% in 2007.

There were more than 25,000 teen births in Texas in 2018.

About 1 in 5 teen births are not the teen’s first.
Reasons for Decline

• **Changes in behavior:** Texas high school students (of any grade level) who report ever having sex decreased from 53% to 39% from 2007 – 2017. However, by the time they’re 18, 63% of students in Texas still report being sexually active.

• **Better contraceptive usage:** Teens have more access to the most effective methods of birth control.

• **More information:** From parents, internet, schools, etc.

• **Cultural changes:** More difficult to measure, but can reflect shifting attitudes towards parenthood, generational attitudes towards risky behaviors, economic factors, and even things like smart phone usage.

Source: Youth Risk Behavioral Survey
Disparities in Teen Birth Rates

Teen birth rates are higher among:
• Teens who have already had a baby
• Older teens (18-19 years)
• Youth of color
• Youth living in poorer areas
• Youth in rural counties
• Youth in conservatorship (foster care)
• Youth with high rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
• Youth experiencing intimate partner violence
However, STI rates are on the rise

STIs are on the rise, especially among youth aged 15-24.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea diagnoses among youth have increased by 25% in ten years and HIV diagnoses have increased by 4%.

Some of this data is due to better screening, but there does appear to be a true increase in incidence.

Condom use may be declining as HIV is perceived as a manageable disease.

Count of cases, Youth Aged 15-24, Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>18,752</td>
<td>23,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>74,731</td>
<td>93,136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DSHS Center for Health Statistics
Healthy Relationships

From early grades, sex education can teach about healthy relationships, abuse and violence prevention, consent, and other key topics.
Current Policy Landscape
Sex Education in Texas

Texas is one of 26 states that doesn’t require sex education for high school graduation.

What do Texas School Districts Offer?

- Abstinence-Only: 58%
- Abstinence-Plus: 25%
- No sex ed: 17%

“Conspiracy of Silence: Sexuality Education in Texas Public Schools.” Texas Freedom Network. 2017
Decision-making Authority

**State Legislature**
- Determines credits needed for K-12 education
- Writes laws that govern sex ed

**State Board of Education**
- Sets minimum curriculum standards by topic and grade level
- Reviews and adopts instructional materials
- Establishes graduation requirements

**Texas Education Agency**
- Commissioner made recommendations to SBOE about sex ed
- Support State Board of Education
- Manage TEKS revision workgroups

**Local School Districts**
- Selects curriculum that will achieve TEKS for local students
- Determines which elective to offer
- Trains teachers to deliver content

**School Health Advisory Council**
- Serves as advisory group to local school board
- Makes recommendations on which curricula to adopt
- No authority to set standards or select curricula

Footer text
State legislature dictates state law about sex education

Health classes are required at the middle school level but are electives at the high school level. If districts do teach sex ed, they must:

- “Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age” and “devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior.”
- Emphasize that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective method for preventing pregnancy, STIs, HIV/AIDS, and “the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity.”
- Teach “human use reality” failure rates for contraception and condoms, if these topics are taught, and may not distribute condoms.

The statute also:
- Lays out the process for sex education curriculum adoption.
- Notes that parents must be notified of sex ed and have the right to remove students from classes.

Election Code, 28.004
State Board of Education sets TEKS

- Districts which choose to teach sex education must follow minimum curriculum standards set by the SBOE: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, or TEKS.

- TEKS represent the MINIMUM standards associated with required or elective courses in Texas.

- Health TEKS were last revised in 1990s and are now undergoing a revision process.
Health TEKS Topics

• Physical health and hygiene
• Mental health and wellness
• Healthy eating and physical activity
• Injury, violence prevention, and safety
• Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
• Reproductive and sexual health
What the TEKS revision can accomplish

**Can**
- Provide more comprehensive information to a wider range of students
- Update info about HIV and STIs to reflect scientific advances of last two decades
- Reflect changes in tolerance and respect of LGBTQ+ individuals
- Reflect updated understanding about consent for the #MeToo era.

**Can’t**
- Specify full curriculum for all districts
- Require sex ed at high school level – that is set in state law
- Supersede state law requiring abstinence first approach
- Replicate some of the most progressive sex education curricula
- Prohibit shame or fear-based instructional methods
Summary of Recommended Revisions

• Improved information on contraception, offered to a wider range of students.

• Updated information prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV, reflecting medical advances in last two decades.

• More information on healthy relationships, reflecting #MeToo understanding of the important of teaching consent – not just refusal.

• Inclusion and respect for LGBTQ students.

• New strand on digital citizenship and online safety, including topics like sexting, digital footprint, social media, etc.
TEKS revision process

SBOE debates revisions

Rouvling workgroups draft TEKS revisions

Permanent advisory group oversees content revision

SBOE meeting schedule

- January 28-31, 2020
- April 14-17, 2020
- June 29-July 3, 2020
- September 8-11, 2020 (final vote expected)
- November 17-20, 2020
State Board of Education

Find out who represents you!

[QR Code]

District 1: Georgina C. Pérez
   El Paso
   Secretary

District 2: Ruben Cortez, Jr.
   Brownsville

District 3: Marisa B. Pérez-Díaz
   Converse

District 4: Lawrence A. Almor, Jr.
   Houston

District 5: Ken Mercer
   San Antonio

District 6: Donna Bahorich
   Houston

District 7: Matt Robinson
   Friendswood

District 8: Barbara Cargill
   Conroe

District 9: Kevin Ellis
   Lufkin
   Chair

District 10: Tom Maynard
   Florence

District 11: Patricia Hardy
   Fort Worth

District 12: Pam Little
   Fairview

District 13: Aicha Davis
   Dallas

District 14: Sue Melton-Malone
   Robinson

District 15: Marty Rowley
   Amarillo
   Vice Chair

Footer text
Ways to Advocate for Sex Education

• Call or email your SBOE member
• Apply to serve on TEKS workgroup as content expert
• Testify at SBOE hearing in Austin
• Meet with your SBOE member in your local district
• Educate and activate other community members
• Gather compelling stories to support advocacy
• Share info on social media
• Sign up for updates at: www.texasisready.org
• Come to the Texas Campaign’s Day at the Capitol in 2021!
What is your message?
Tips to Advocate Effectively

- Storytelling changes minds
- Be informed
- Know your audience
- Find common ground
- Know your ask
- Say thank you afterwards
Can I advocate? Can I lobby?

• **Private individuals can lobby.**
  - A person must register with the Texas Ethics Commission as a lobbyist if they earn more than $1,000 per quarter lobbying (unless total time is less than 40 hours), OR, if they spend more than $500 per quarter lobbying.

• **Non-profit organizations can lobby**, within certain limits:
  - File the simple 501(H) election form, which allows more generous lobbying limits
  - 501(H) allows 20% of first $500,000 budget for lobbying and decreasing percentages after that, up to $1 million cap. Additional restrictions exist for grassroots lobbying (asking public to support/oppose policies).
  - 501(c)(3) nonprofits may not participate in campaigns for or against candidates for public office.

• **Federal grantees may not use federal funds to lobby.**
  - However, they can lobby using other funds or use volunteers such as unpaid board members to lobby.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocacy is:</th>
<th>Lobbying is:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities not intended <strong>to influence specific legislation</strong>, such as providing general education to elected officials on topics, writing fact sheets, media outreach, or advocacy training of members.</td>
<td>Direct communications with members of the legislative or executive branch of state government <strong>to influence legislation or administrative action</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Webinar
Caring for Gender-Diverse Youth
Wednesday, March 25,
12 – 1 pm
txcampaign.org/webinars