

OUR KIDS ARE ON FAST FORWARD

Why is our Health & Physical Education
curriculum stuck on pause?



OVER 2 MILLION STUDENTS in Ontario's publicly funded schools are being taught from a curriculum that has not been fully updated in over 15 years. Ten percent of the elementary curriculum and the entire secondary curriculum are from the 1990s. The revised H&PE curriculum focuses on teaching students how to be emotionally and physically healthy, be better able to make informed choices, build relationships based on respect and trust, and develop communities of inclusion. Ontario students need the revised H&PE curriculum now.

www.OurRightToLearn.ca

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

We all play a role in ensuring our kids receive quality Health & Physical Education.

PARENTS

Responsible for teaching their child values, beliefs and traditions and supporting their education.



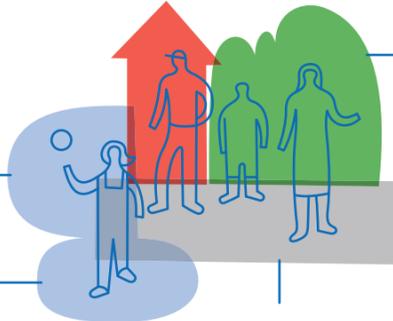
TEACHERS

Responsible for effective instruction of curriculum expectations in a safe, caring and inclusive environment.



STUDENTS

Responsible for their learning, progress and applying their skills.



PRINCIPALS

Responsible for working with educators, parents and community to help students get the best possible education.



CURRICULUM

Responsible for outlining the expected knowledge and skills for each grade in a holistic and integrated way.



COMMUNITY

Responsible for working in partnership with schools, supporting student learning and wellbeing.



WE'RE WAITING, BUT OUR KIDS AREN'T. A revised curriculum is needed in Ontario's classrooms.

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Sensationalism about 'sex ed' is stalling the release of the revised H&PE curriculum.

THE FACT IS...

Here's what the revised (but not yet released) curriculum actually says.

FICTION: Sex ed teaches kids how to have sex.

FACT: Sexual health education is about equipping students with the information and skills needed for positive sexual health and to avoid negative outcomes, e.g. STIs, unplanned pregnancy.¹

FICTION: Sex ed results in kids having sex earlier.

FACT: Sexual health education does not increase the frequency of sexual behaviour or the number of sexual partners, and may result in delayed sexual activity.²

FICTION: Sex hasn't changed in the past decade so there is no need to update this curriculum.

FACT: Today's kids are growing up faster and reaching maturity years earlier than in generations past.³ Advances in technology and social media have changed how (mis)information is accessed and transmitted.

FICTION: Parents don't want the revised H&PE curriculum or even sex ed in schools.

FACT: Almost all Ontario parents (93%) are calling for an updated sexual health component.⁴ Education is most effective when parents/guardians, schools and community share responsibility in supporting students' learning.

FICTION: Sex ed and health class are the same thing.

FACT: Sexual health education is only a small portion of the H&PE curriculum. Learning about mental health, resiliency, healthy relationships, respect and inclusion, are other important pieces that are being held back while we wait for the revised curriculum to be released.

THE REVISED CURRICULUM DOES NOT:

Teach sex in grade 1.

Teach gender fluidity in grade 3.

Focus on gender identity, homophobia, and personal satisfaction in grade 6.

Teach students how to perform oral and anal sex in grades 7.

THE REVISED CURRICULUM DOES:

Teach students in grade 1 to identify body parts (including genitalia).

Teach students in grade 3 about respect and many visible and invisible differences (including gender identity and sexual orientation) and how these differences make each person unique.

Teach students in grade 6 about factors that affect the development of a person's self-concept (including cultural and gender identity), build confidence for healthy relationships, and help students assess the effects of stereotypes.

Teach students in grade 7 about reasons for delaying sexual activity (including vaginal and anal sex), build skills for healthy relationships and the ability to make healthy choices to prevent sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy.

REFERENCES

- 1 Public Health Association of Canada. (2008). *Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education*. Retrieved from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cgshe-ldnemss/pdf/guidelines-eng.pdf>
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 - 3 Herman-Giddens, M.E., Steffes, J., Harris, D., Slora, E., Hussey, M., Dowshen, S.A., Wasserman, R., Serwint, J.R., Smitherman, L., and Reiter E.O., (2012). "Secondary Sexual Characteristics in Boys: Data From the Pediatric Research in Office Settings Network". *Pediatrics*. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/10/15/peds.2011-3291>
 - 4 Environics. (2013). *Ophea Parent Opinion Survey: Summary of Findings*. Retrieved from https://www.ophea.net/sites/default/files/pdfs/advocacy/ADV_Environics_FINAL_03JN13.pdf
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