

REFERENCE TITLE: **schools; sex education**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fiftieth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2011

# **SB 1457**

Introduced by  
Senators Sinema, Cajero Bedford: Gallardo, Jackson, Meza, Reagan

**AN ACT**

**AMENDING SECTIONS 15-711 AND 15-716, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-711, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 15-711. Sex education curricula; sexual conduct with a minor;  
5 definitions

6 A. All school districts ~~with existing sex education curricula~~ shall:

7 1. PROVIDE SEX EDUCATION THAT IS MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE.

8 2. Include instruction on the laws relating to sexual conduct with a  
9 minor for pupils in grades seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve. Each  
10 school district may develop its own course of study to meet the requirements  
11 of this ~~section~~ PARAGRAPH.

12 B. AT THE REQUEST OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
13 SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL REVIEW INSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO  
14 DETERMINE THEIR MEDICAL ACCURACY.

15 C. AT THE REQUEST OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
16 SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE:

17 1. A SUGGESTED COURSE OF STUDY.

18 2. TEACHER TRAINING.

19 3. A LIST OF AVAILABLE FILMS AND OTHER TEACHING AIDS.

20 D. AT THE REQUEST OF A PARENT, A PUPIL SHALL BE EXCUSED FROM  
21 INSTRUCTION ON SEX EDUCATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION A. THE SCHOOL  
22 DISTRICT SHALL NOTIFY ALL PARENTS OF THEIR ABILITY TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD  
23 FROM THE INSTRUCTION.

24 E. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

25 1. "COMPREHENSIVE" MEANS EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS THAT BEGIN IN  
26 KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND CONTINUE THROUGH GRADE TWELVE AND THAT PROVIDE  
27 PUPILS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING SKILLS AND LEARNING AGE-APPROPRIATE,  
28 MEDICALLY ACCURATE INFORMATION ON A BROAD SET OF TOPICS RELATED TO SEXUALITY,  
29 INCLUDING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, RELATIONSHIPS, DECISIONMAKING, ABSTINENCE,  
30 CONTRACEPTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION.

31 2. "MEDICALLY ACCURATE" MEANS INFORMATION THAT IS ALL OF THE  
32 FOLLOWING:

33 (a) VERIFIED OR SUPPORTED BY THE WEIGHT OF PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH  
34 CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC METHODS.

35 (b) RECOGNIZED AS ACCURATE AND OBJECTIVE BY LEADING PROFESSIONAL  
36 ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD.

37 (c) PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS, IF APPROPRIATE.

38 Sec. 2. Section 15-716, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

39 15-716. Instruction on sexually transmitted infections;  
40 department assistance; definition

41 A. Each common, high and unified school district ~~may~~ SHALL provide  
42 instruction to PUPILS IN kindergarten programs through the twelfth grade on  
43 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, INCLUDING acquired immune deficiency  
44 syndrome and the human immunodeficiency virus.

1 B. Each district is free to develop its own course of study for each  
2 grade. At a minimum, instruction shall:

- 3 1. Be appropriate to the grade level in which it is offered.
- 4 2. Be medically accurate.
- 5 3. Promote abstinence.
- 6 4. Discourage drug abuse.
- 7 5. Dispel myths regarding transmission of SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED  
8 INFECTIONS, INCLUDING the human immunodeficiency virus.

9 ~~C. No district shall include in its course of study instruction which:~~

- 10 ~~1. Promotes a homosexual life-style.~~
- 11 ~~2. Portrays homosexuality as a positive alternative life-style.~~
- 12 ~~3. Suggests that some methods of sex are safe methods of homosexual~~  
13 ~~sex.~~

14 ~~D.~~ C. At the request of a school district, the department of health  
15 services or the department of education shall review instruction materials to  
16 determine their medical accuracy.

17 ~~E.~~ D. At the request of a school district, the department of  
18 education shall provide the following assistance:

- 19 1. A suggested course of study.
- 20 2. Teacher training.
- 21 3. A list of available films and other teaching aids.

22 ~~F.~~ E. At the request of a parent, a pupil shall be excused from  
23 instruction on SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, INCLUDING the acquired immune  
24 deficiency syndrome and the human immunodeficiency virus as provided in  
25 subsection A ~~of this section~~. The school district shall notify all parents  
26 of their ability to withdraw their child from the instruction.

27 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "MEDICALLY ACCURATE" MEANS  
28 INFORMATION THAT IS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 29 1. VERIFIED OR SUPPORTED BY THE WEIGHT OF PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH  
30 CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC METHODS.
- 31 2. RECOGNIZED AS ACCURATE AND OBJECTIVE BY LEADING PROFESSIONAL  
32 ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD.
- 33 3. PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS, IF APPROPRIATE.