

Required Instructional Criteria

According to the Education Code (EC § 51933), all instruction and materials in all grades must:

- Be age-appropriate;
- Be medically accurate and objective;
- Align with and support the purposes of the California Healthy Youth Act, as described above;
- Be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- Be appropriate for and equally available to English language learners;
- Be appropriate for and accessible to pupils with disabilities;
- Affirmatively recognize different sexual orientations and be inclusive of same-sex relationships in discussions and examples;
- Teach about gender, gender expression, gender identity, and the harm of negative gender stereotypes;
- Encourage students to communicate with their parents/guardians and other trusted adults about human sexuality, and provide skills for doing so;
- Teach the value of and prepare students to have and maintain committed relationships such as marriage;
- Provide knowledge and skills for forming healthy relationships that are free from violence; and
- Provide knowledge and skills for making and implementing healthy decisions about sexuality including negotiation and refusal skills to assist students in overcoming peer pressure and using effective decision making skills to avoid high-risk activities.
- Instruction and materials may not teach or promote religious doctrine; or
- Reflect or promote bias against any person on the basis of actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race or ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation, or any other category protected by the non-discrimination policy codified in Education Code § 220.

Required Instructional Content

Instruction provided in grades 7-12, in addition to meeting the instructional criteria or baseline requirements above, must include all of the following content (EC § 51934):

- Information on the nature and transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- Information about all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved methods of preventing and reducing the risk of transmission of HIV and other STIs, including antiretroviral treatment, and information about treatment of HIV and STIs;
- Information about reducing the risk of HIV transmission as a result of injection drug use by decreasing needle use and needle sharing;
- Discussion about social views of HIV and AIDS, emphasizing that all people are at some risk of contracting HIV and that the only way to know one's HIV status is by being tested;
- Information about accessing resources for sexual and reproductive health care and assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence, as well as students' legal rights to access these resources;
- Information about the effectiveness and safety of all federal FDA-approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy (including emergency contraception);
- Information that abstinence is the only certain way to prevent unintended pregnancy and HIV and other STIs; information about value of delaying sexual activity must be included and must be accompanied by information about other methods for preventing pregnancy, HIV and STIs;
- Information about pregnancy, including 1) the importance of prenatal care; 2) all legally available pregnancy outcomes, including parenting, adoption, and abortion; and 3) California's newborn safe surrender law; and
- Information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking.