

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7496--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 28, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS, GLICK, PAULIN, DINOWITZ, LUNSFORD, EPSTEIN, STIRPE, CRUZ, COOK, SIMON, HYNDMAN, REYES, BRONSON, ROZIC, LAVINE, RAMOS, ROSENTHAL, SEAWRIGHT, LUPARDO, HEVESI, HUNTER, MAGNARELLI, BURKE, OTIS, WALKER, R. CARROLL, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, BURDICK, CLARK, JACOBSON, KELLES, MEEKS, FORREST, McMAHON, RAJKUMAR, BARRETT, MAMDANI, DE LOS SANTOS, STECK, ANDERSON, GALLAGHER, RAGA, SHIMSKY, SIMONE, CUNNINGHAM, LEVENBERG, SHRESTHA, SEPTIMO, DAVILA, TAPIA, BORES, VALDEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the healthy and safe students act

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "healthy and safe students act".

3 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to  
4 read as follows:

5 § 804-e. Healthy and safe students. 1. Each public and charter school  
6 shall ensure all pupils receive, as an integral part of education in  
7 grades kindergarten through twelve, comprehensive sexuality education.

8 2. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of health,  
9 shall develop and establish a comprehensive sexuality education program.  
10 Such program of instruction shall include: (i) model curricula for  
11 comprehensive sexuality education in grades kindergarten through twelve  
12 including exemplar lesson plans, instructional tools and materials, and  
13 best practice instructional resources that are suitable to student age,  
14 based on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity and at a minimum  
15 conforms to the content and scope of national sexuality education stand-  
16 ards; (ii) resources to support implementation of the instruction in the

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 schools; and (iii) public availability of all program materials related  
2 to comprehensive sexuality education on the department's website.

3 3. In the development of such program, the commissioners shall seek  
4 the recommendations of a broad range of experts such as teachers certi-  
5 fied in health, biology, family and consumer science, early childhood  
6 education, and childhood education, certified and licensed social work-  
7 ers, school nurses, school administrators, school board members, parent  
8 teacher association members, others with educational expertise in inti-  
9 mate partner violence, sexual assault, reproductive and sexual health  
10 care, and serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning  
11 youth. Such program of comprehensive sexuality instruction shall be  
12 reviewed periodically by the commissioner in consultation with the  
13 commissioner of health, at intervals specified by the commissioner, and  
14 updated as necessary.

15 4. The commissioner shall prescribe in regulations such contents and  
16 topics to be included in a curriculum of comprehensive sexuality  
17 instruction; provided, however, that the curricula need not be uniform  
18 throughout the state; and provided further, however, that school  
19 districts shall utilize either a curriculum for comprehensive sexuality  
20 education instruction prescribed by the commissioner or a curriculum in  
21 accordance with the criteria established by the commissioner.

22 5. Upon approval and adoption by the board of regents, the department  
23 shall issue guidance to the school districts about the program on  
24 comprehensive sexuality instruction and publish on its website model  
25 curricula and instructional resources required by this section. School  
26 districts shall provide comprehensive sexuality education instruction no  
27 later than the school year following the effective date of this section.  
28 No later than the second year after the effective date of this section  
29 and as necessary thereafter, the commissioner shall conduct a review of  
30 district implementation to monitor compliance.

31 6. The boards of education or trustees of the cities and school  
32 districts of the state that choose not to adopt the model curriculum  
33 approved by the board of regents shall each establish an advisory coun-  
34 cil which shall make recommendations to the board of education or trus-  
35 tees concerning the curriculum, content, and evaluation of the compre-  
36 hensive sexuality education required pursuant to this section. The  
37 advisory council shall include, but need not be limited to, members of  
38 the school board or trustees, school authorities, a teacher designated  
39 by a teacher's collective bargaining organization, other staff, parents,  
40 students, and other representatives of the community. The board of  
41 education or trustees of a school district shall determine the curric-  
42 ulum and content of the program within the school district and shall be  
43 responsible for the evaluation of the program within the district and  
44 ensuring the program conforms in content and scope to the comprehensive  
45 sexuality education program established by the commissioner.

46 7. As used in this article, "comprehensive sexuality education" means  
47 a medically accurate, age-appropriate sequential learning program which  
48 addresses physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of human  
49 sexuality, is trauma-responsive and culturally appropriate, incorporates  
50 skills-based instruction; provides students with knowledge and skills  
51 they need to form relationships that are based on mutual respect and  
52 affection and that are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation;  
53 and are respectful and inclusive of all students regardless of actual or  
54 perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion,  
55 religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender as defined  
56 in section eleven of this chapter. Comprehensive sexuality education

1 shall include, but is not limited to, age-appropriate instruction on:  
2 (i) human anatomy, reproduction, and sexual development; (ii) consent,  
3 bodily autonomy, boundary-setting, bullying, and peer pressure; (iii)  
4 healthy relationships, including relationships involving diverse sexual  
5 orientations and gender identities and prevention of intimate partner  
6 violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment; (iv) methods for  
7 preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections; (v) gender,  
8 gender expression, gender identity, diversity of sex characteristics,  
9 and the harms of gender stereotypes; (vi) the relationship between  
10 substance use and sexual behavior and health; and (vii) the use of tech-  
11 nology and social media in interpersonal relationships.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding  
13 the date on which it shall have become a law.