



Eta Sigma Gamma

National Professional Health Education Honorary

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CSHE) in Schools Resolution

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Whereas schools have more influence on the lives of young people than any other social institution except the family (DHHS, 2000) and present unique a setting for adolescents to acquire knowledge, strengthen attitudes, and practice necessary skills to help them take personal responsibility for their sexual health and well-being (CDC, n.d.); and

Whereas the health and learning impacts of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and unplanned adolescent pregnancy are well documented, (Basch, 2011; Kirby, 2007)) and seeking to prevent these health risks and being committed to effectively educating adolescents is a top public health priority (Feldman Farb & Margolis, 2016); and

Whereas sexual health education programs in school settings can address the public health issues of STIs, HIV, and unplanned adolescent pregnancy through comprehensive learning opportunities which consist of age-appropriate, culturally-inclusive skill development for sexual health (CDC, 2015; Kirby, 2007)); and

Whereas comprehensive approaches to sexual health education that educate adolescents in the areas of abstinence, contraception, and STIs/HIV prevention are more effective at delaying the onset of sexual intercourse and increasing contraception use than those which teach abstinence as the only acceptable method of preventing STIs/HIV and unplanned pregnancies for adolescents (CDC, 2015; Santelli et al., 2017); and

Whereas comprehensive sexual health utilizes instructional strategies and learning experiences to help adolescents accurately assess the level of risk-taking behavior among their peers, correct misperceptions of peer and social norms, and reinforces health-enhancing attitudes and beliefs (Kirby, 2007); and

Whereas comprehensive sexual health education is guided by curricular frameworks which utilize grade specific scope-and-sequence benchmarks, developmentally-appropriate content, and relevant connections to adolescents' changing world (CDC, 2015); and

Whereas comprehensive sexual health education delivered by a highly qualified and trained individual is more likely to result in effective lesson delivery and fidelity to sexual health education programs in schools (CDC, 2015; Clayton et al., 2017; Borawski, 2015); now, therefore, it be

Resolved that Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG):

1. Supports increased public awareness and knowledge for the importance of comprehensive approaches to sexual health education in school settings.
2. Insists on scientific evaluation of federal and state sexual health education curricula to ensure their effectiveness in reducing negative health risk and outcomes, such as sexually transmitted infections, human immunodeficiency virus, and unplanned pregnancy among school-age adolescents.

3. Facilitates leadership in fostering collaborations with public health and educational organizations and professional groups which support comprehensive sexual health education in schools.
4. Supports advocacy actions for passing federal and state legislation which grants funds to programs to support utilizing comprehensive sexual health education information which is scientifically-accurate, developmentally-appropriate, and tailored to adolescent's unique needs.
5. Promotes professional development standards to enhance training among sexual health education teachers, including those in elementary, middle, and high schools.

References

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