

STATEMENT ON
**PARENTAL RIGHTS
& COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUALITY ED**

Ottawa County, Michigan



**MICHIGAN SCHOOL CODE
EXPLICITLY STATES,**

SECTION 380.10:

“It is the natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care, teaching, and education of their children.

The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil’s parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil’s intellectual capabilities and vocational skills in a safe and positive manner.”

“Natural” rights are those rights given to us by our Creator, rights that cannot be taken away by man, government or a school system. As parents, we take our role in our children’s education seriously, and recognize public schools are not given a role above that of a child’s parents.

Michigan’s School Code regarding sex education states the board of a school district “may” (380.1507 (1)) provide sex education, but this is not a mandate. Michigan schools do not have to provide sex education, and when parents do allow the schools to educate their children on such an important subject, it must be done with utmost integrity and transparency in accordance with the law.

We believe teaching children issues of sexuality is the responsibility and privilege of parents, a responsibility and right which does not belong to Michigan schools. Teaching sexuality issues without parental knowledge and/or consent violates Michigan law.

It is every parent’s natural right to teach their OWN children what they believe in regards to sexuality, to “direct the care, teaching, and education of their children”.

We value every child. Sexuality education is not a subject that needs to cause division between our children or our communities. Differing beliefs on how we choose to raise our own children simply does not equal hate. Mutual respect and room to allow others to raise their children according to their own beliefs on sexuality, is supportive of ALL parents, and is supported by Michigan law.

We first and foremost advocate for childhood innocence—for not pushing sexuality content onto children at school, especially at young ages. Parents standing for parental rights and student innocence, urging caution about over sexualized content aligned with Planned Parenthood and Comprehensive Sexuality Education, do so desiring positive health outcomes for ALL children.

Where there is great divide in a community between what parents desire to be taught to their children, we advocate for two models of sex education. Alternatively, sex education could be taught outside of school altogether. However, it is not the right of school personnel or community members to impose their desire for the **content** of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to be taught to other people’s children, whether through sex education, health class, or use of everyday classroom books and curriculum.

We can respectfully disagree, and allow each other the dignity and freedom to raise our own children according to our own beliefs. We all love our children.



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