

About the State-Level Sexual Health Education Curriculum Reviews

About the Reviews

Since 2008, the Legislature has required regular reviews of HIV prevention and sexual health curricula and other instructional materials. The goal of the reviews is to determine whether materials are consistent with current state requirements to assist school districts with the local curriculum adoption process.

The reviews are completed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and a panel of reviewers representing local school districts and public health experts.

The reviews include both full, comprehensive curricula and supplemental materials such as DVDs and individual lessons. Curriculum review reports and review tools are posted on [OSPI's website](#).

Recruitment Process

Reviewers are recruited through an application process that looks at their professional experience either reviewing or developing sexual health instructional materials. Approximately 10–12 reviewers are identified for each review, most representing school districts, as well as local health departments, university-level teaching staff from across the state and community-based organizations. The Department of Health provides additional reviewers who conduct the medical and scientific accuracy portion of the review.

Review Criteria

The review panel assesses how consistent each instructional material is with:

- AIDS Omnibus Act ([RCW 28A.230.070](#)),
- 2005 [Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention](#) and the further requirements of the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education law ([RCW 28A.300.475](#)),
- State law regarding bias-free materials ([WAC 392-190-055](#)), and
- [Health and Physical Education K–12 Learning Standards](#).

In addition, reviewers look at ease of use, quality of materials, and other factors that are of interest to educators. Reports and summaries of reviewed materials are posted on OSPI's website to assist districts with the curriculum selection process.

OSPI does not “approve,” “endorse,” or “recommend” curricula. Approval of instructional materials is done at the district level, once a district has determined that materials are suitable for use in their community.

