

DIVERSITY OR DECEPTION

The fact-based truth behind the controversial sexual orientation and gender identity lessons in NJ public schools. They are often referred to as the same, but they have distinct differences as shown in the comparison below.

SEX ED LEARNING STANDARDS

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION CURRICULUM

FACT #1

The Learning Standards for Health and Physical Education were approved by the governor appointed State Board of Education by an **8-4 vote on June 3, 2020**. The current members of the NJ Board of Education were appointed by Governors Christie and Murphy. The last time these standards were updated was 2014.

The New Jersey Legislature DID NOT VOTE on these Learning Standards.

Assembly bill 4454 requires school districts to include instruction on diversity and inclusion for grades K-12. It was passed by the NJ State Senate on Dec 17, 2020, and the NJ State Assembly on Jan 11, 2021. It was signed into law by Governor Murphy on March 1, 2021.

Only 1 Republican, former State Senator Chris Brown voted FOR the bill. Only 1 Democrat, former State Assemblyman Jamel Holley voted AGAINST the bill.

FACT #2

Public comments in support or opposition to these proposed learning standards before their approval took place *on December 4, 2019, January 8, 2020, and February 5, 2020*.

Public testimony in support and opposition of A4454 was held in the *Assembly Education Committee on October 22, 2020*, and the *Senate Education Committee on Dec 7, 2020*.

FACT #3

During the open comment period, 1,011 parents, teachers, and advocates shared their views. Despite the overwhelming majority of parents testifying to their objection to the increasing sexualization of children in public school curriculum, a coalition of organizations testified in support of more radical and age-inappropriate sex ed standards. These include Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and Advocates for Youth. This coalition of organizations proudly support age-inappropriate sex ed standards. More information can be found at their website www.SexEdNJ.org

During the public comments in the Senate Education Committee, Senator Theresa Ruiz (D – Newark), the chairwoman of the committee, accused parents who did not want sexual orientation and gender identity lessons in kindergarten of being “hateful”. Senator Michael Doherty (R-Washington Township) defended the parents’ right to be heard and their position to protect the innocence of their children. Senator Ruiz demanded that his microphone be muted. Read the story at: www.insidernj.com/mute-his-microphone-ruiz-doherty-clash-diversity-bill/

FACT #4

The Health and Physical Education Learning Standards include sections titled “*Social and Sexual Health*” and “*Personal Growth and Development*.”

By 2nd GRADE students must learn the following:

- 2.1.2.PGD.5 — List medically accurate names for body parts, including the genitals. (i.e. penis, vulva, anus)
- 2.1.2.PP.1 — Define reproduction.
- 2.1.2.SSH.2 — Discuss the range of ways people express their gender and how gender-role stereotypes may limit behavior.

By 5th GRADE students must learn the following:

- 2.1.5.PGD.4 — Explain common human sexual development and the role of hormones (e.g., romantic and sexual feelings, masturbation, mood swings, timing of pubertal onset)

By 8th GRADE students must learn the following:

- 2.1.8.SSH.9 — Define vaginal, oral, and anal sex

The Diversity and Inclusion law mandates:

C.18A:35-4.36a — Curriculum to include instruction on diversity and inclusion.

- 1 a. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district’s implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- b. The instruction shall: (1) highlight and promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance.
- c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to promote diversity and inclusion.

For complete bill language: www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2020/A4454

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FACT #5 **Implementation:** These Health and Physical Education Learning Standards are *to be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year*.

Implementation: The Diversity and Inclusion law *was to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year*. However, many districts postponed it because the Dept of Education did not provide sample lessons in time, as the law required.

FACT #6 **Opt-Out:** Families have the right to Opt-Out of Sex Ed lessons in Health Class.

Opt-Out: Families do not have any recourse or Opt-Out available for diversity lessons if interwoven into various subjects or stand-alone lessons. If lessons are restricted to health class, an opt-out must be provided to families. The law states it can be placed where appropriate – not limited to Health Class. School districts must decide where to place these lessons.

FACT #7 **Transparency:** When the Learning Standards were originally proposed for public comment and review, *Dec. 2021–Feb 2020*, the above controversial requirements were not included. Parents did not know this objectionable content was even being considered.

Transparency: The NJ Department of Education did release sample lessons in *January 2022* to assist local school boards in adopting curriculum to fulfill the law. These sample lessons can be found on the NJDOE page: www.nj.gov/education/standards/dei/index.shtml

FACT #8 **Behind the scenes:** The Sex Ed Learning Standards were developed based on input from Advocates for Youth as part of the new Comprehensive Sex Ed (CSE) movement promoted by SEICUS (Sexual Information and Education Council of the United States) and Planned Parenthood. These organizations are committed to promoting abortion up to the moment of birth and ending the recognition of the gender binary in society.

Behind the scenes: The NJDOE recommends schools use or consider K-2nd grade gender identity lessons developed by Learning for Justice, the educational arm of the Southern Poverty Law Center. (SPLC)

Note: The SPLC has been linked to domestic terrorism for wrongfully vilifying Christian organizations.

For more information about CSE and what is happening in public schools nationwide, download the Family Policy Alliance resource: familypolicyalliance.com/back-to-school-for-parents/

FACT #9 **Lesson Content:** The lessons created by the national organization Advocates for Youth include illustrations of genitals for five year old children and teaching kindergarteners that “most boys have a penis but not all. Most girls have a vulva but not all.”

Lesson Content: In their lesson for K-2nd grade under the topic of “Gender and Sexual Identity”, the teacher is instructed to not define the word “gender” in the vocabulary section to students but allow 5-year old’s to determine what the word gender means to them.

These lessons and PowerPoints can be found on their website: www.3rs.org/download-3rs/

- **Lesson Excerpt:** *Note: There are many different ideas about how to define the term gender. We provide a working definition, but one of the goals of Teaching Tolerance’s work is for students to come to individual and collective understandings and criticisms of the term that make sense to them and their personal and developmental needs.*

www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons/exploring-gender-stereotypes-through-role-plays

FACT #10 **Not Required:** School districts do NOT have to use lessons by Advocates for Youth to fulfill the Learning Standards.

Not Required: School districts do NOT have to use lessons by Learning for Justice to fulfill the law.

NOTE: *These facts do not cover the LGBT curriculum law that was passed in 2019 that requires school districts to teach sexual orientation and gender identity lessons in middle school and high school. Under this “contributions” law, Garden State Equality and Make it Better for Youth developed curriculum. These lessons can be found at their website: www.teach.lgbt. School districts do NOT have to use Garden State Equality lessons to fulfill the law.*