



Puberty: The Wonder Years, 2021 Edition Addresses the Michigan a to k Criteria



Michigan public schools that choose to teach sex education must meet Michigan’s legal requirements for sex education curriculum as stated in section 380.1507b of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The following chart outlines the curriculum requirements listed in section 1507 (a to k) and how to meet them using *Puberty: The Wonder Years* 2021 edition lessons for grades 4, 5, and 6. Materials and instruction in the sex education curriculum shall be **age-appropriate**, shall **not be medically inaccurate**, and shall do at least all of the following:

Curriculum Requirements	Age Appropriate?*	Where Addressed
(a) Discuss the benefits of abstaining from sex until marriage and the benefits of ceasing sex if a pupil is sexually active.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes (benefits of abstaining): This age group is receptive to abstinence messages and respects limits set by adults. • No (until marriage): This is a shame-based message. Instead, students identify benefits of abstaining and importance of talking to adults. • No (ceasing sex): The vast majority of this age group has not had sex, so instructing them to cease would give them the impression of a false norm in their group. 	<u>Grade 4:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 4-4, 4-5 <u>Grade 5:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons 5-5, 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons 6-6, 6-10
(b) Include a discussion of the possible emotional, economic, and legal consequences of sex.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: At the age sex is explained, the consequences are discussed. 	<u>Grade 4:</u> Sex is not explained. <u>Grade 5:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 5-4, 5-5, 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 6-6
(c) Stress that unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases are serious possibilities of sex that are not fully preventable except by abstinence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: At the age sex is explained, possible negative consequences and how to avoid them are discussed. 	<u>Grade 4:</u> Sex is not explained. <u>Grade 5:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons 5-4, 5-5, 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons 6-6, 6-7 <u>Add-On Lessons:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G, H
(d) Advise pupils of the laws pertaining to their responsibility as parents to children born in and out of wedlock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No: Most students in this age group are not bearing children. 	-
(e) Ensure that pupils are not taught in a way that condones the violation of the laws of this state pertaining to sexual activity (list omitted).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Instruction of this age group can avoid discussion of the issues in these laws. 	<u>Grade 4:</u> All Lessons <u>Grade 5:</u> All Lessons <u>Grade 6:</u> All Lessons



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<p>(f) Teach pupils how to say "no" to sexual advances and that it is wrong to take advantage of, harass, or exploit another person sexually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (sexual advances): Most students in this age group are developmentally not interested in sexual advances. • Yes (harassment): This age group needs skills to deal with situations involving harassment. 	<p><u>Grade 4:</u> no** <u>Grade 5:</u> • Lessons 5-6, 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> • Lessons 6-4, 6-5, 6-8 <u>Add-On Lesson:</u> • F</p>
<p>(g) Teach refusal skills and encourage pupils to resist pressure to engage in risky behavior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Refusal skills help equip this age group to avoid risky situations. 	<p><u>Grade 4:</u> no** <u>Grade 5:</u> • Lesson 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> • Lesson 6-5, 6-8</p>
<p>(h) Teach that the pupil has the power to control personal behavior. Pupils shall be taught to base their actions on reasoning, self-discipline, a sense of responsibility, self-control, and ethical considerations such as respect for self and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: This age group is becoming more autonomous and independent and able to accept personal responsibility for their behavior. 	<p><u>Grade 4:</u> • Lesson 4-3 <u>Grade 5:</u> • Lessons 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 <u>Grade 6:</u> • Lessons 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-8, 6-9, 6-10</p>
<p>(i) Provide instruction on healthy dating relationships and on how to set limits and recognize a dangerous environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No: Most students in this age group are not ready for dating. 	<p><u>Grade 6:</u> • Lesson 6-4 (healthy relationships) • Lesson 6-8 (refuse or report risky situations)</p>
<p>(j) Provide information for pupils about how young parents can learn more about adoption services and about the provisions of the safe delivery of newborns law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No: Most students in this age group are not bearing children. 	<p>-</p>
<p>(k) Include information clearly informing pupils that having sex or sexual contact with an individual under the age of 16 is a crime punishable by imprisonment and that 1 of the other results of being convicted of this crime is to be listed on the sex offender registry on the internet for up to 25 years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No: Most students in this age group have not had sex voluntarily, and criminalizing sex would negatively impact their initial learning about sex. 	<p>-</p>

* Whether or not these criteria are age appropriate is the author's opinion, which may differ from the conclusions of the sex education advisory board.

** Teach refusal skills using a health education curriculum, such as the *Michigan Model for Health*[®], to equip students to resist pressure to engage in risky behavior as required by criteria g.