



# California School Nurses Organization

Position Statement

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

### STATEMENT

The California School Nurse Organization asserts that all credentialed school nurses are professionally educated in health education. Credential School Nurses understand education standards and how and where growth and development and sexual health education integrate into the Health Education Content Standards. Credential School Nurses are valuable resources and participants in the development and implementation of comprehensive growth and development and sexual health education.

### RATIONALE

California school districts that provide comprehensive sexual health education, must ensure that the programs are: age appropriate; medically accurate and objective; available to English language learners; appropriate for use with pupils of all races, genders, sexual orientation, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds; appropriate for and accessible to pupils with disabilities. Comprehensive sexual health education should encourage pupil communication with their parent(s) or guardian(s) regarding human sexuality and, provide instruction regarding respect for marriage and committed relationships. Research has shown that effective family life, reproductive and human sexuality education promotes more responsible decisions such as a delay in sexual activity, rational choice between abstinence, and the use of contraceptives for sexually active adolescents.

### References:

American School Health Association Resolution: *Quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education*. (2007). Retrieved from [http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/Resolutions/Quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education 2007.pdf](http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/Resolutions/Quality%20Comprehensive%20Sexuality%20Education%202007.pdf)

American School Health Association Resolution: *Quality Sexuality Education for Students with Disabilities and Other Special Needs*. (2009). Retrieved from [http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/Resolutions/Quality Sexuality Education Disabilities.pdf](http://www.ashaweb.org/files/public/Resolutions/Quality%20Sexuality%20Education%20Disabilities.pdf)

California Department of Education: *Comprehensive Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS Instruction*. Retrieved from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/se/>

California Department of Education. (2008). *Health education content standards for California public schools: Kindergarten through grade twelve*. Retrieved from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/healthstandmar08.pdf>

California Department of Education. (2003). *Health framework for California public schools: Kindergarten through grade twelve*. Retrieved from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/healthfw.pdf>

California Education Code Sections 51930-51939. Retrieved from [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

National Association of School Nurses. (2013). *Reproductive health education*. (Position Statement). Retrieved from <http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/43/School-Health-Education-about-Human-Sexuality-Revised-2012>