ANALYZING K-12 HEALTH STANDARDS 2.0

Less than 72 hours before the vote, the MDE published "revised" standards – now 74 pages long. Here's the skinny:

Teaching the Wrong Stuff:

- **Sexualizing Children:** The words sex or gender appear 253x in 74 pages. Most school age children are under the age of consent. Why the heavy emphasis on sex?
- **Health Topics Underemphasized:** Counted together, all of the health, hygiene, and physiology topics spelled out by the legislature are mentioned only 151 times in these standards. Sex and gender are mentioned 253 times.
- **Pushing Radical Gender Ideology:** The newest draft includes a whole segment misleading local school districts and encouraging them to teach children about "sexual orientation, gender identify and gender expression", even though those words do not appear anywhere in the laws governing sex ed.
- **Pregnancy is not an STI:** Repeatedly, the draft references pregnancy in a list of "other [Sexually Transmitted Infections] STIs." Preborn children are not infections. (example on pg. 23)
- **Training Children to Become Political Activists:** Other topics mentioned push social/political issues rather than the academics of physiology and hygiene: environment (30x), culture (21x), social/society (77x). These topics seem more fitting for earth science or social science classes, and when taught, ought not promote a progressive political agenda as they currently do. Instead, from kindergarten, children are encouraged to advocate for change.
- **Wrongly Teach Values & Beliefs:** This is not an appropriate use of Health class or government-run public education. Parents teach values. Schools teach academics.

Parental Rights:

- **Lip Service Only:** The latest draft does a) clearly describe the right of parents to opt out of sex ed and b) puts most of sex ed in Section 3. However, content about sexual conduct, attraction, and love is still interwoven into health class (examples on pages 43, 44, and 53)
- **Shutting Parents Out**: Minor children (as young as 11–12-year-olds in 6th grade) are taught about "the rights of adolescents to maintain their own health"—shutting parents out of conversations
- **Sowing Mistrust**: The 28 references to "trusted adult" still encourage children to talk to people other than their parents about life's big questions, diminishing the role of families

Decreasing Local Control:

- **Length=Less Local Input**: Health Ed Standards went from 14 pages in 2007 to 74 pages now proposed. This length is not a guide; it is prescriptive.
- **Civil Rights:** The new draft doesn't just focus on content that should be learned; it specifies how teachers should teach—spelling out what they must demonstrate, describe, and explain. This may compel many teachers to speak against their sincerely held religious beliefs (example on pg. 66).
- **Risking Student Resources:** If local districts follow this advice, they risk losing federal funding. The standards shouldn't encourage districts to put politics ahead of students and school funding.

Ideological Indoctrination, Not Healthy Education

"The program shall be designed to educate youth with regard to critical health problems and shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics as the basis for comprehensive education curricula in all elementary and secondary schools: ***drugs, narcotics, alcohol, tobacco, mental health, dental health, vision care, nutrition, disease prevention and control, accident prevention and related health and safety topics****."*
--MCL 388.382, which MCL 380.1170 references as the statutory criteria for Health Ed

Less than 72 hours before the vote, the MDE published "revised" standards, which still fall short of the plain language of the law. The following reflections mentions in the 11/10/25 draft of the *Proposed Health Education Standards Guidelines* (2.0):

Required by MCL 380.1170 (and 388.382):

- Physiology: 2x mentions in practices; 7x mentioned total
- Hygiene: 12x
- Drugs: 25x
- Narcotics: 0
- Alcohol: 9x
- Tobacco: 1x (legal reference only-no mention in practices)
- Mental health: 18x
- Dental health: 4x
- Vision care: 0
- Nutrition: 18x
- Disease prevention and control: 19x
- Accident prevention: 0

Required by MCL 380.1170a

- CPR: 8x

Required by MCL 380.1169

- HIV: 28x

All Health Education topics combined are mentioned a total of 151 times.

Sex and Gender are mentioned 253 times.

Our laws (Sections 1507 and 1169) specify that **abstinence must be stressed** when teaching about sex or HIV. **Abstinence is mentioned only 18 times**.

Other topics mentioned push social/political issues rather than the academics of physiology and hygiene: environment (30x), culture (21x), social/society (77x). These topics seem more fitting for earth science or social science classes, and when taught, ought not promote a progressive political agenda as they currently do.

The question deserves an answer: Why are we obsessing over sex in Health Education?