



Suggested Talking Points for Contacting the Michigan State Board of Education regarding their proposed Health Standard adjustments.

1. Send emails to the Michigan State Board of Education in your own personal voice and with a message that is respectful and relevant to you. You do not have to be a parent, or grandparent to voice your concern.

2. These are simply samples of points you might appreciate discussing.

Summary: The Michigan Department of Education is asking the Michigan State Board of Education to adopt new “updated” Health” Standards for K-12 public schools. It’s a 51-page document! These standards **greatly expand** the topics typically covered in Health class weaving in sexual topics that have never before been included. Topics include gender identity and sexual orientation, but also those based on a political ideology that pushes advocacy on green energy, identifying “trusted adults,” etc. These don’t belong in Health class, period.

The current Michigan law mandates that students pass Health class for graduation. Sex-education is a separate class guided specifically in [Michigan law](#) that calls for parental notification and **parents can easily opt their kids out**. It allows local school districts to have a choice whether to offer Sex-Ed and IF they do, they are required to have an Advisory board with parents, clergy and community involved.

To be clear, the Board is not revoking the Sex-Ed law – the issue is they are adding into Health classes sexual topics and political ideology that goes far beyond current Health class curriculums today. And Health class is NOT optional without penalty for students. That is the problem.

It is our job as Michigan taxpayers to respectfully speak up and let the Department know, *this is not what we want for Michigan’s children*.

Reference documents:

- [Current Health Standards](#) implemented in 2007
- [Proposed Health Standards](#) that the SBE is being pressured to adopt now from the Michigan Department of Education
- Our [website with a plethora of resources and tools](#)

Points to cover could include:

1) The term “trusted adults” is used **over thirty times** in the new proposed Health Standards. Why is this? Does the Michigan Department of Education think that they are better equipped than parents to determine who a minor should talk to about these topics? Why would the state put a wedge between kids and parents?

2) Because the proposed standards interweave teaching about sex and sexuality into core, required health class (**more than 100 references** in over 51 pages), it is at best unclear if and how parental notice, curriculum review, and opt-outs will be managed by local districts.

3) We urge the State Board of Education to reject these new health standards being proposed. They go far beyond a simple “update” and are not needed for our kids.

4) The topics of sexual orientation and gender identity are sexual in nature and therefore do not belong to a mandatory Health class which has no parental opt-out provision.

5) **By law**, local control over what is selected for a core class, such as Health class, is very limited. Schools that don’t follow the standards for Health Education risk loss accreditation for graduation.

6) As proposed, children will be required to learn values about sexuality and gender that would directly contradict the sincerely held religious beliefs of many public-school families. This is unconstitutional.