



Center for Sexual & Reproductive Health



Comprehensive Sex Education That Works

SCORING SEX ED & ABORTION POLICY IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NATIONWIDE

Our fellows analyzed all 50 states and DC for their support for or restrictions of abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, critical race theory, social emotional learning, and sex education. Using national resources such as SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change and GLSEN, they created a score of a state’s support for and ease of access to comprehensive sex education. The goal of this project was to identify trends in abortion access and sex education across the nation in a post-Dobbs environment. This fact sheet uses the Guttmacher abortion access score to contextualize the PPLM-developed sex education score.

GUTTMACHER ABORTION POLICY SCORE

MOST RESTRICTIVE	State bans abortion completely
VERY RESTRICTIVE	State has multiple restrictions and early gestational age ban
RESTRICTIVE	State has multiple restrictions and later gestational age ban
SOME RESTRICTIONS/ PROTECTIONS	State has a few restrictions or protections, or has combination of restrictive and protective policies
PROTECTIVE	State has some protective policies
VERY PROTECTIVE	State has most of the protective policies
MOST PROTECTIVE	State has all or almost all of the protective policies

SEX ED POLICY SCORE

-1 POINT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstinence is stressed Discriminatory against LGBTQ+ Prohibits abortion Emphasis on heterosexual marriage Opt-in parental consent
+1 POINT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medically accurate Birth control options are covered Inclusive of LGBTQ+ Affirms abortion

NOTABLE DATA

We can see from the data that **MA is neutral on sex education** (scoring a 0 on a scale of -5 to 4) in the company of states including Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota, which have some of the most restrictive laws on the books against abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, social emotional learning, and critical race theory.

Massachusetts is one of only four states that are protective of abortion rights to score below a 1 on sex education policy. And while there are plenty of states that scored lower than MA, there are 14 states (plus D.C.) that scored higher – including Iowa, which has some of the most restrictive laws on the books for abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, and critical race theory.

Massachusetts is protective of abortion rights, but lacking when it comes to sex education.

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STATE	SEX ED SCORE	GUTTMACHER ABORTION SCORE
Mississippi (MS)	-5	Most Restrictive
Texas (TX)	-4	Most Restrictive
Arizona (AZ)	-3	Very Restrictive
Florida (FL)	-3	Restrictive
Louisiana (LA)	-3	Most Restrictive
Ohio (OH)	-3	Restrictive
South Carolina (SC)	-3	Restrictive
Arkansas (AR)	-2	Most Restrictive
Georgia (GA)	-2	Very Restrictive
Indiana (IN)	-2	Restrictive
Kentucky (KY)	-2	Most Restrictive
Michigan (MI)	-2	Some Restrictions/Protections
North Carolina (NC)	-2	Restrictive
Oklahoma (OK)	-2	Most Restrictive
Utah (UT)	-2	Restrictive
Alabama (AL)	-1	Most Restrictive
Delaware (DE)	-1	Some Restrictions/Protections
Idaho (ID)	-1	Most Restrictive
Kansas (KS)	-1	Restrictive
Nevada (NV)	-1	Some Restrictions/Protections
New York (NY)	-1	Very Protective
North Dakota (ND)	-1	Restrictive
Pennsylvania (PA)	-1	Restrictive
Tennessee (TN)	-1	Most Restrictive
West Virginia (WV)	-1	Most Restrictive
Wisconsin (WI)	-1	Restrictive
Alaska (AK)	0	Protective
Massachusetts (MA)	0	Protective
Minnesota (MN)	0	Some Restrictions/Protections
Missouri (MO)	0	Most Restrictive
Montana (MT)	0	Some Restrictions/Protections
Nebraska (NE)	0	Restrictive
New Hampshire (NH)	0	Some Restrictions/Protections
New Mexico (NM)	0	Very Protective
South Dakota (SD)	0	Most Restrictive
Virginia (VA)	0	Some Restrictions/Protections
Wyoming (WY)	0	Some Restrictions/Protections
Connecticut (CT)	1	Protective
Hawaii (HI)	1	Protective
Iowa (IA)	1	Restrictive
Maine (ME)	1	Protective
Vermont (VT)	1	Very Protective
Washington (WA)	1	Protective
California (CA)	2	Very Protective
Maryland (MD)	2	Protective
New Jersey (NJ)	2	Very Protective
Oregon (OR)	2	Most Protective
Rhode Island (RI)	2	Some Restrictions/Protections
D.C.	3	Protective
Illinois (IL)	3	Protective
Colorado (CO)	4	Protective

The Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts ASPIRE Center for Sexual and Reproductive Health serves as the umbrella for PPLM's nationally recognized research, clinical training, and professional education teams. ASPIRE works to advance excellence and equity in sexual and reproductive health and well-being, with a focus on combating systemic barriers that disproportionately prevent Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ people, young people, and people with disabilities from accessing quality sexual and reproductive health care. This national landscape analysis was supported by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Fund for the Future and was conducted by Dr. Susan Wiener, MD MPH and Jennifer Cheng, BS under the supervision of ASPIRE Center Director MaryRose Mazzola, JD MPP.