

Grade 7

Explain the impact sexually explicit media can have on one’s body image, expectations about sex, relationships, and self-esteem. 1c.7.17

Summarize the negative consequences of sending sexually explicit pictures or messages by e-mail or cell phone or posting sexually explicit pictures on social media sites. 1c.7.18

Grade 8

Describe the state and federal laws that impact young people's sexual health and rights, ability to give and receive sexual consent, and engagement with sexually explicit media. 1c.8.18

Analyze the negative consequences of sending sexually explicit pictures or messages by e-mail or cell phone or posting sexually explicit pictures on social media sites. 1c.8.19

High School

Explain the impact sexually explicit media can have on one's perceptions of, and expectations for, a healthy relationship. 1c.HS1.18

Explain federal and state laws that prohibit the creation, sharing, and viewing of sexually explicit media that includes minors. 1c.HS1.19

While the indicators cited above do not explicitly include the word sexting, the Framework requires age and developmentally appropriate education related to the risks of sexting starting in grade 6. The indicators above were developed utilizing national guidance such as the [CDC Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool](#)¹ and [National Sex Education Standards](#)².

It should be noted that this bill requires age-appropriate instruction on the risks of sexting in every grade in which the family life curriculum is taught. Family life and human sexuality instruction is included in PreK through high school as part of the Comprehensive Health Education Instructional Program. Age-appropriate instruction on the risks of sexting may not be feasible in every grade that family life and human sexuality instruction is provided.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 194**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool, 2021, Atlanta: CDC; 2021.

² Future of Sex Education Initiative. (2020). National Sex Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12 (Second Edition).