



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 194	DATE:	January 27, 2022
SUBJECT:	Education – Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum – Sexting	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
POSITION:	Information Only		
CONTACT:	Ary Amerikaner 410-767-0090 ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits information for consideration regarding **House Bill 194 – Family Life and Human Sexuality Curriculum – Sexting**, which would require county boards of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on the risks of sexting as part of family life and human sexuality curriculum in every grade.

MSDE, in collaboration with local school system leaders and experts in the field of Health Education, revised and published an updated [Maryland Framework for Comprehensive Health Education](#) in July 2020. This Framework specifies what every child should know and be able to do at each grade level, prekindergarten through grade eight, as well as at the high school level.

Instruction related to sexually explicit media, which includes sexting, is part of family life and human sexuality education for Maryland students in grades 6-8 and high school. The Health Education Framework includes the indicators below related to sexually explicit media.

Grade 6

Identify the impact sexually explicit media can have on one's body image, expectations about sex, relationships, and self-esteem. 1c.6.9

Explain 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.6.10

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).