



BILL: House Bill 194
TITLE: Education - Family Life and Human Sexuality
DATE: January 27th, 2020
POSITION: Unfavorable
COMMITTEE: Ways & Means
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon

This bill requires county boards of education to create age-appropriate instruction on the risks of sexting and the meaning of “consent” and respect for personal boundaries as a part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in every grade in which the curriculum is taught.

PSSAM is supportive of the intent of this bill, but must **oppose** due to our core philosophy that curriculum decisions are left to superintendents and their local boards of education. However, it is important to note that many local school systems currently incorporate relevant information relating to this matter within their curriculum.

Curriculum development is guided by Maryland’s health education standards, which are based upon the National Health Education Standards. Currently, Family Life and Sexual Education is implemented within grades K-12. Education Code 7-445 (implemented in 2018), requires county boards of education to provide instruction on the meaning of consent, and respect of personal boundaries in sexual education courses.

Local school systems share the fundamental goal of enabling students to demonstrate the ability to use human development knowledge, social skills, and health enhancing strategies to promote positive relationships and healthy growth and development throughout their lives.

PSSAM thanks the sponsor for her advocacy, but firmly believes decisions regarding curriculum belong to superintendents and local school boards of education. Therefore, we respectfully oppose House Bill 194 and urge an unfavorable report.