Health is Academic
I’ve Got to Teach What?
Update on House Bill 999 – Sex-related Education in Mississippi

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Let’s Review….

Passed in the 2011 Legislation Session, House Bill 999 requires Mississippi schools to implement a SRE program.

Signed by Governor Barbour, March 16, 2011
Why do we need a Sex-related education bill?

- Mississippi has the highest rate of teen pregnancies
- In MS there are 65.7 pregnancies for every 1000 young women – age 15-19
- Parenthood is the leading cause of school dropout
- Children of teen mothers face more health and academic challenges than their peers.
By June 30, 2012, every school district had to adopt a policy:
- Abstinence-only education, or
- Abstinence-plus education

By June 30, 2012, school districts had to submit a selected policy and curriculum to the Office of Healthy Schools

Instruction was to begin in 2012-13 school year.
HB999-SRE highlights

- Boys and Girls must be separated for instruction
- Requires written notice of inclusion/exclusion
- School nurses responsible for implementation of program
- No effort to teach abortion as a means to prevent birth
HB999-SRE highlights

- “The instruction or program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.”

- “In no case shall the instruction or program include any demonstration of how condoms or other contraceptives are applied.” *Excerpt from House Bill 999 lines 71-76*
- 84 Districts Decided to teach Abstinence-Only
- 75 Districts Decided to teach Abstinence-Plus
- Some Districts chose to teach both
A curriculum review team reviewed curriculum submitted through a RFP process. Districts were asked to make their curriculum selection from the approved list. This list can be found on the Healthy Schools website under What’s New.
# of Curriculums Approved

- Abstinence Only - 9
- Abstinence-Plus – 7
- Several Curriculums were approved for both only and plus
Only or Plus: What’s the difference?

- Abstinence education shall remain the state standard for any SRE taught in MS public schools

- Any SRE includes instruction or program provided at an appropriate age and grade
Abstinence Only—may include:

- The teaching of social, psychological and health gains associated with abstinence;
- the teaching of harmful consequences to adolescent sexual activity;
- the teaching of skills to deal with unwanted sexual advances, including the role of alcohol and drug use;
- the teaching of abstinence as the only way to avoid pregnancy, STD and related health problems;
(continued)
Abstinence Only—may include:

- discussion of condom and contraceptive use along with factual presentation of risks and failure rates;
- the teaching of state law related to sexual conduct; and
- the teaching that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the most healthy option.
Abstinence Plus

- MUST include all the components listed above
- Any programmatic curriculum that has been approved
Who is Teaching Sex-related education in our schools?

- Health Teachers
- Physical Education Teachers
- School Nurses
- School Counselors
- Community Program Leaders
Resources Available at
www.mde.k12.ms.us/healthyschools

- HB 999 Related State Laws
- Implementation Plan
- Approved Resources
- HB 999 District Reporting Form
- House Bill 999
- Sample Policy Abstinence Only
- Sample Policy Abstinence Plus
- House Bill 999 Powerpoint
- Permission Letter Example 1- Sex Related Education
- Permission Letter Example 2- Sex Related Education
Additional Resources & Technical Assistance

- Professional Development Trainings for instructors, teachers, counselors and nurses were provided in September 2011

- Abstinence-Plus CHART Training has been provided by the MSDH

- Health In Action Lesson Plans
  [www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthinaction.html](http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/healthinaction.html)
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