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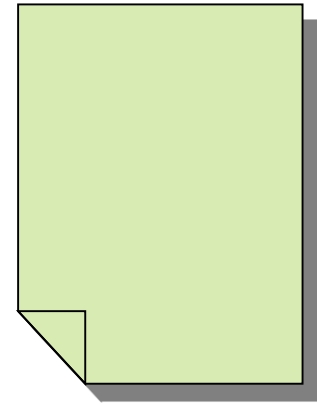


# **I've Got to Teach What?**

## **Update on House Bill 999 – Sex-related Education in Mississippi**

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Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Healthy Schools

● ● ● | **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.

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# HB999-SRE highlights



- 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.

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# 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

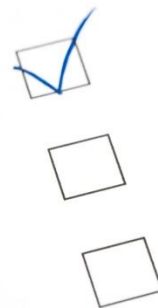


- “The instruction or program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.”
- “In no case shall the instruction or program include any demonstration of how condoms or other contraceptives are applied.” *Excerpt from House Bill 999 lines 71-76*





## Districts Reported....



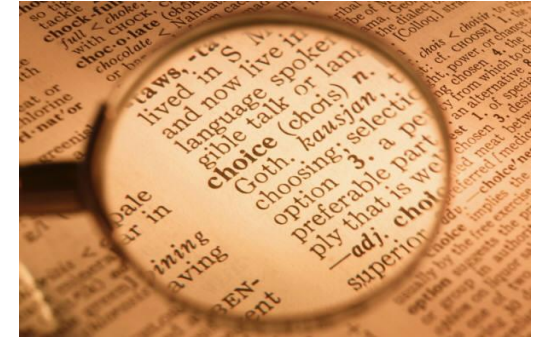
- **84** Districts Decided to teach **Abstinence-Only**
- **75** Districts Decided to teach **Abstinence-Plus**
- Some Districts chose to teach **both**







# Curriculum Choices



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)





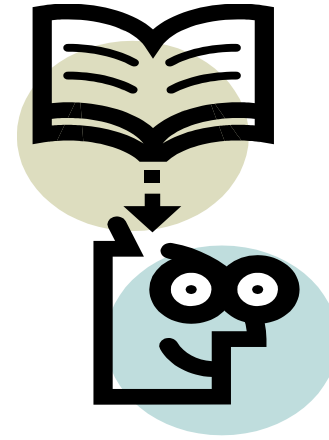
## **Abstinence Only—may include:**

- 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

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# 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](http://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](#)

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# 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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