

America's most prominent health and family institutions support responsible, comprehensive sex education:

American Medical Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Nurses Association  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
National Institutes of Health  
Institute of Medicine  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Child Welfare League of America  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Council on Family Relations  
National School Boards Association  
National Council of Churches  
YWCA of the USA

1106 Lavaca  
Suite 103  
Austin, TX 78701

[www.educationworkstexas.org](http://www.educationworkstexas.org)

# EDUCATION! Works!

a broad coalition of health professionals, social service groups, religious leaders, education professionals, policy organizations, and concerned Texans who support common sense solutions to keep our young people safe and healthy.

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# EDUCATION WORKS!

The Education Works coalition believes teenagers need honest information to make responsible choices about sex. The Education Works coalition is working to ensure that schools teach sexual health with a medically accurate and balanced approach – teaching abstinence along with facts about contraception and responsible decision-making.

Texas parents want their children to receive age appropriate, medically accurate information about responsible pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease prevention that includes information on abstinence and birth control.

Yet, far too often, Texas schools fail to give young people the complete and accurate information they need to stay healthy, putting Texas teens at risk:

- Texas has the highest rate of births<sup>1</sup> and repeat births to teenagers in the nation.<sup>2</sup>
- Every 10 minutes a teen in Texas becomes pregnant.<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately 1 in 4 teen girls has a sexually transmitted disease.<sup>4</sup>
- 60% of mothers who have a child before they turn 18 fail to graduate from high school.<sup>5</sup>

Education Works supports common sense solutions to give teens practical information about health that deals with the real life situations they face everyday:

- Teaching young people that abstinence is the best policy for avoiding pregnancy and disease and giving them the comprehensive information they need to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and STI's, including HIV.
- Using effective curricula based upon sound science and unbiased research, not ideology or politics.
- Education that helps young people learn to make healthy decisions, foster communication skills, develop meaningful relationships, and express affection, love and intimacy in ways that are consistent with their family values.
- Education that respects and values young people and helps them become healthy, safe, responsible adults.

Join the Education Works Coalition to support common sense solutions that will give Texas young adults the honest information they need to make responsible choices.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your level of commitment below (check all that apply):

- Our organization would like to join and be listed as a coalition partner.
- We will disseminate information about the campaign to our members.
- We will collect and return signed postcards from our members.
- A representative from our organization and/or membership will testify in support of comprehensive sex education legislation.
- We cannot be listed as a coalition partner at this time, but please keep us informed.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to 1106 Lavaca, Suite 103, Austin, TX 78701.

<sup>1</sup>KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation (2007).

<sup>2</sup>Child Trends, [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-06\\_26\\_2007\\_FG\\_2007FactsAtAGlance.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-06_26_2007_FG_2007FactsAtAGlance.pdf) (last accessed Oct. 28, 2008).

<sup>3</sup>Texas Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/famplan/ppp.shtml> (last accessed Oct. 28, 2008).

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (March 11, 2008).

<sup>5</sup>Hoffman, S.D., By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Adolescent Childbearing 2006, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy Washington, D.C.