

# What Do Region 1 Parents Say About Sex Education In Schools?

## Survey Findings from the Greater New Orleans Area

A large majority of parents surveyed in Region 1 (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes) agreed that sex education is an important part of school curriculum and that schools should be required to offer sex education. Two-thirds of parents surveyed in Region 1 stated that they believe their child has received or will receive sex education in school.



Believe sex education is an important part of school curriculum



Believe schools should be required to offer sex education



Believe sex education that emphasizes abstinence but also provides information on birth control should be taught in schools



Believe their child has received or will receive sex education in school

It is clear from our state's health statistics that the status quo is not sufficient. Louisiana youth are at high risk for teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Region 1 has some of the **highest** rates of STDs of the nine public health regions in the state

1<sup>st</sup>

for chlamydia diagnoses

2<sup>nd</sup>

for gonorrhea & HIV diagnoses

4<sup>th</sup>

for syphilis diagnoses

Sex education programs that provide accurate, comprehensive, and developmentally-appropriate information on sexual health result in healthier behaviors among youth, including delayed initiation of sexual activity as well as increased contraceptive and condom use and monogamy among youth who choose to be sexually active. Louisiana law does not currently require that schools offer sex education, but does allow it in grades 7–12 (schools under the Orleans Parish School Board can begin sex education in grade 3). This means that students may or may not receive any type of instruction in sex education.

**The parent survey and focus groups reveal that parents overwhelmingly support sex education in schools across Louisiana**

**Survey Methodology:** This statewide study was conducted by the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies and the Louisiana Public Health Institute from November–December 2016. The survey sample is representative of Louisiana's population on the basis of race and income at state and regional levels. The survey oversampled parents in Public Health Regions 1, 3, and 8 as well as conducted focus groups in these regions. For more information or to view the full report go to [www.geauxtalk.org](http://www.geauxtalk.org)