

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 240

Representatives Stoltzfus, Fowler Arthur

**Cosponsors: Representatives Bird, Brinkman, Click, Dean, Gross, Hall, Holmes,
Jordan, Kick, McClain, Merrin, Pavliga, Powell, Riedel, Stephens, Wiggam**

A BILL

To amend sections 3313.60 and 3313.6011 of the 1
Revised Code to enact the Parents Right to Know 2
Act to enforce school district compliance with 3
venereal disease or teen pregnancy prevention 4
instruction requirements. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3313.60 and 3313.6011 of the 6
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 7

Sec. 3313.60. Notwithstanding division (D) of section 8
3311.52 of the Revised Code, divisions (A) to (E) of this 9
section do not apply to any cooperative education school 10
district established pursuant to divisions (A) to (C) of section 11
3311.52 of the Revised Code. 12

(A) The board of education of each city, exempted village, 13
and local school district and the board of each cooperative 14
education school district established, pursuant to section 15
3311.521 of the Revised Code, shall prescribe a curriculum for 16
all schools under its control. Except as provided in division 17

(E) of this section, in any such curriculum there shall be	18
included the study of the following subjects:	19
(1) The language arts, including reading, writing,	20
spelling, oral and written English, and literature;	21
(2) Geography, the history of the United States and of	22
Ohio, and national, state, and local government in the United	23
States, including a balanced presentation of the relevant	24
contributions to society of men and women of African, Mexican,	25
Puerto Rican, and American Indian descent as well as other	26
ethnic and racial groups in Ohio and the United States;	27
(3) Mathematics;	28
(4) Natural science, including instruction in the	29
conservation of natural resources;	30
(5) Health education, which shall include instruction in:	31
(a) The nutritive value of foods, including natural and	32
organically produced foods, the relation of nutrition to health,	33
and the use and effects of food additives;	34
(b) The harmful effects of and legal restrictions against	35
the use of drugs of abuse, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco;	36
(c) Venereal disease <u>or teen pregnancy prevention</u>	37
education, except that upon written request of the student's	38
parent or guardian, a student shall be excused from taking	39
instruction in venereal disease <u>or teen pregnancy prevention</u>	40
education;	41
(d) In grades kindergarten through six, instruction in	42
personal safety and assault prevention, except that upon written	43
request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be	44
excused from taking instruction in personal safety and assault	45

prevention; 46

(e) In grades seven through twelve, age-appropriate 47
instruction in dating violence prevention education, which shall 48
include instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs 49
and characteristics of healthy relationships. 50

In order to assist school districts in developing a dating 51
violence prevention education curriculum, the department of 52
education shall provide on its web site links to free curricula 53
addressing dating violence prevention. 54

If the parent or legal guardian of a student less than 55
eighteen years of age submits to the principal of the student's 56
school a written request to examine the dating violence 57
prevention instruction materials used at that school, the 58
principal, within a reasonable period of time after the request 59
is made, shall allow the parent or guardian to examine those 60
materials at that school. 61

(f) Prescription opioid abuse prevention, with an emphasis 62
on the prescription drug epidemic and the connection between 63
prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs, such as 64
heroin; 65

(g) The process of making an anatomical gift under Chapter 66
2108. of the Revised Code, with an emphasis on the life-saving 67
and life-enhancing effects of organ and tissue donation; 68

(h) ~~Beginning with the first day of the next school year~~ 69
~~that begins at least two years after the effective date of this~~ 70
~~amendment~~ July 1, 2023, in grades six through twelve, at least 71
one hour or one standard class period per school year of 72
evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention and at least one 73
hour or one standard class period per school year of safety 74

training and violence prevention, except that upon written 75
request of the student's parent or guardian, a student shall be 76
excused from taking instruction in suicide awareness and 77
prevention or safety training and violence prevention; 78

(i) Beginning ~~with the first day of the next school year~~ 79
~~that begins at least two years after the effective date of this~~ 80
~~amendment~~ July 1, 2023, in grades six through twelve, at least 81
one hour or one standard class period per school year of 82
evidence-based social inclusion instruction, except that upon 83
written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student 84
shall be excused from taking instruction in social inclusion. 85

For the instruction required under divisions (A) (5) (h) and 86
(i) of this section, the board shall use a training program 87
approved by the department of education under section 3301.221 88
of the Revised Code. 89

Schools may use student assemblies, digital learning, and 90
homework to satisfy the instruction requirements under divisions 91
(A) (5) (h) and (i) of this section. 92

(6) Physical education; 93

(7) The fine arts, including music; 94

(8) First aid, including a training program in 95
cardiopulmonary resuscitation, which shall comply with section 96
3313.6021 of the Revised Code when offered in any of grades nine 97
through twelve, safety, and fire prevention. However, upon 98
written request of the student's parent or guardian, a student 99
shall be excused from taking instruction in cardiopulmonary 100
resuscitation. 101

(B) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, 102
every school or school district shall include in the 103

requirements for promotion from the eighth grade to the ninth 104
grade one year's course of study of American history. A board 105
may waive this requirement for academically accelerated students 106
who, in accordance with procedures adopted by the board, are 107
able to demonstrate mastery of essential concepts and skills of 108
the eighth grade American history course of study. 109

(C) As specified in divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of section 110
3313.603 of the Revised Code, except as provided in division (E) 111
of this section, every high school shall include in the 112
requirements for graduation from any curriculum one-half unit 113
each of American history and government. 114

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, 115
basic instruction or demonstrated mastery in geography, United 116
States history, the government of the United States, the 117
government of the state of Ohio, local government in Ohio, the 118
Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and 119
the Constitution of the state of Ohio shall be required before 120
pupils may participate in courses involving the study of social 121
problems, economics, foreign affairs, United Nations, world 122
government, socialism, and communism. 123

(E) For each cooperative education school district 124
established pursuant to section 3311.521 of the Revised Code and 125
each city, exempted village, and local school district that has 126
territory within such a cooperative district, the curriculum 127
adopted pursuant to divisions (A) to (D) of this section shall 128
only include the study of the subjects that apply to the grades 129
operated by each such school district. ~~The curriculums~~ curricula 130
for such schools, when combined, shall provide to each student 131
of these districts all of the subjects required under divisions 132
(A) to (D) of this section. 133

(F) The board of education of any cooperative education 134
school district established pursuant to divisions (A) to (C) of 135
section 3311.52 of the Revised Code shall prescribe a curriculum 136
for the subject areas and grade levels offered in any school 137
under its control. 138

(G) Upon the request of any parent or legal guardian of a 139
student, the board of education of any school district shall 140
permit the parent or guardian to promptly examine, with respect 141
to the parent's or guardian's own child: 142

(1) Any survey or questionnaire, prior to its 143
administration to the child; 144

(2) Any textbook, workbook, software, video, or other 145
instructional materials being used by the district in connection 146
with the instruction of the child; 147

(3) Any completed and graded test taken or survey or 148
questionnaire filled out by the child; 149

(4) Copies of the statewide academic standards and each 150
model curriculum developed pursuant to section 3301.079 of the 151
Revised Code, which copies shall be available at all times 152
during school hours in each district school building. 153

Sec. 3313.6011. (A) As used in this section, "sexual 154
activity" has the same meaning as in section 2907.01 of the 155
Revised Code. 156

(B) Instruction in venereal disease or teen pregnancy 157
prevention education pursuant to division (A) (5) (c) of section 158
3313.60 of the Revised Code shall emphasize that abstinence from 159
sexual activity is the only protection that is one hundred per 160
cent effective against unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted 161
disease, and the sexual transmission of a virus that causes 162

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. 163

~~(C) In adopting minimum standards under section 3301.07 of~~ 164
~~the Revised Code, the~~ (1) The state board of education shall 165
require all course material and instruction in venereal disease 166
or teen pregnancy prevention education courses taught pursuant 167
to division (A) (5) (c) of section 3313.60 of the Revised Code to 168
do all of the following: 169

~~(1) (a)~~ Stress that students should abstain from sexual 170
activity until after marriage; 171

~~(2) (b)~~ Teach the potential physical, psychological, 172
emotional, and social side effects of participating in sexual 173
activity outside of marriage; 174

~~(3) (c)~~ Teach that conceiving children out of wedlock is 175
likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's 176
parents, and society; 177

~~(4) (d)~~ Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are 178
serious possible hazards of sexual activity; 179

~~(5) (e)~~ Advise students of the laws pertaining to 180
financial responsibility of parents to children born in and out 181
of wedlock; 182

~~(6) (f)~~ Advise students of the circumstances under which 183
it is criminal to have sexual contact with a person under the 184
age of sixteen pursuant to section 2907.04 of the Revised Code; 185

~~(7) (g)~~ Emphasize adoption as an option for unintended 186
pregnancies; 187

(h) Teach risk avoidance to unhealthy behaviors including 188
alcohol, drugs, dating violence, bullying, gambling, 189
pornography, and human trafficking and encourage optimal health 190

for all youth. 191

(2) If a school district or school chooses to offer 192
additional instruction in venereal disease or teen pregnancy 193
prevention education not specified in division (C)(1) of this 194
section, the district or school shall notify all parents or 195
guardians of that instruction. Any instruction so chosen shall 196
not conflict with provision (C)(1) of this section. Notification 197
shall consist of the school district or school providing parents 198
the instruction and supplemental materials, including third- 199
party web sites. No district or school shall offer other 200
instruction on this topic unless that student's parent or 201
guardian has submitted written permission for that student to 202
receive such instruction. 203

(D) Any model education program for health education the 204
state board of education adopts shall conform to the 205
requirements of this section. 206

(E) The state board shall conduct an annual audit of each 207
city, local, and exempted village school district, at the start 208
of each school year, relative to its compliance with the 209
instruction requirements of this section and division (A)(5)(c) 210
of section 3313.60 of the Revised Code. The state board shall 211
publish the findings of each audit not later than one hundred 212
twenty days after the start of the school year. The board shall 213
include in the findings of each audit the name of any 214
organization or program that provided materials to a school 215
district regarding venereal disease or teen pregnancy prevention 216
instruction. The state board's findings shall be prominently 217
posted on the department of education's web site. If the school 218
district or school has a web site, the information provided to 219
the state board shall be posted on that web site. 220

(F) A parent or guardian of a student attending a school 221
district may bring a civil action against the district to 222
enforce compliance with this section if an audit conducted under 223
division (E) of this section determines the district not to be 224
in compliance. 225

(G) On and after March 18, 1999, and notwithstanding 226
section 3302.07 of the Revised Code, the superintendent of 227
public instruction shall not approve, pursuant to section 228
3302.07 of the Revised Code, any waiver of any requirement of 229
this section or of any rule adopted by the state board of 230
education pursuant to this section. 231

Section 2. That existing sections 3313.60 and 3313.6011 of 232
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 233

Section 3. This act shall be known as the Parents Right to 234
Know Act. 235