



May, 2019

## Change is in the Air!

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Good news for Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) Education (known also as avoiding sexual intimacy until marriage). Because research showed that communities' parents and teens prefer SRA education over a focus on contraceptive instruction, funding has been restored to many organizations teaching SRAE across America. The findings from that research showed that:

- **Benefits of Waiting Until Marriage Instruction Increased.** About three-quarters of both females and males reported formal instruction on waiting until marriage for sexual activity.
- **Focus on Birth Control Instruction Decreased.**
- **That SRA Education Enjoys Strong Support from Parents and Communities.**

The authors of this research acknowledged that the increase in SRA education, despite its decreased federal funding "*shows the continued salience of this approach to sex education.*" This data tells us that the more than 700 million dollars spent on President Obama's federally-funded *Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program* had fallen woefully short of their intended goal. During those years, federal funding for SRA education had decreased in the federal budget from over \$100 million per year to only \$10 million per year. Now SRAE funding has increased and continues to become available from the Department of Health and Human Services to organizations such as Equipping Youth.

We are available for your school or a special youth group event for a one time presentation: **Understanding the Risk:**

- Discussing media and social cons (lies)
- Understanding the adolescent brain
- Connecting teens' use of stimulants to lifetime negative consequences
- Realizing the methods of forming habits
- Understanding the brain's chemical bonding reaction to sexual intimacy
- Making a personal choice to save sexual intimacy for marriage.

Your continued support of our work sustains our programming because we are required to spend funds from our general fund for sections of our budget that are not available from our federal funding award. Our budget needs to increase by at least \$50,000 per year to cover the funds needed for our increase in staffing and programs. Thank you for your concern for the hundreds of youth we are in the process of scheduling for Powerful Choices classes for next school year!

*Ruth Anne Eccles*