

House Bill 3459

Sponsored by Representative BOICE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Tells schools to teach about human growth in the uterus and to show related videos. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Directs school districts to teach about human biology related to pregnancy and human development inside the womb and to show related videos.

Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to human development education; creating new provisions; amending ORS 336.455; and de-
3 claring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 336.455 is amended to read:

6 336.455. (1) Each school district shall provide age-appropriate human sexuality education courses
7 in all public elementary and secondary schools as an integral part of the health education curric-
8 ulum.

9 (2) Course material and instruction for all human sexuality education courses shall enhance
10 students' understanding of sexuality as a normal and healthy aspect of human development. Course
11 instruction shall:

12 (a) Be medically accurate.

13 (b) Be comprehensive.

14 (c) Include information about responsible sexual behaviors and hygienic practices that eliminate
15 or reduce the risks of pregnancy and the risks of exposure to human immunodeficiency virus,
16 hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections. Information about those risks shall
17 be presented in a manner designed to allay fears concerning risks that are scientifically groundless.

18 (d) Promote abstinence for school-age youth and mutually monogamous relationships with an
19 uninfected partner for adults as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and the transmission
20 of sexually transmitted infections. However, abstinence may not be taught to the exclusion of other
21 material and instruction on contraceptive and infection reduction measures. Human sexuality edu-
22 cation courses shall acknowledge the value of abstinence while not devaluing or ignoring those
23 students who have had or are having sexual intercourse.

24 (e) Include a discussion about the characteristics of the emotional, physical and psychological
25 aspects of a healthy relationship and a discussion about the benefits of delaying pregnancy beyond
26 the adolescent years as a means to better ensure a healthy future for parents and their children.
27 Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding both the
28 health benefits and the possible side effects of all forms of contraceptives, including the success and
29 failure rates for prevention of pregnancy.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (f) Stress that sexually transmitted infections are serious possible outcomes of sexual contact.
 2 Students shall be provided with statistics based on the latest medical information regarding the ef-
 3 ficacy of all methods of sexual protection in preventing sexually transmitted infections, including
 4 human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

5 (g) Provide students with information about Oregon laws that address young people’s rights and
 6 responsibilities related to childbearing and parenting.

7 (h) Advise students of the circumstances in which it is unlawful under ORS 163.435 and 163.445
 8 for persons 18 years of age or older to have sexual relations with persons younger than 18 years
 9 of age to whom they are not married.

10 (i) Teach students that no form of sexual expression is acceptable when the expression phys-
 11 ically or emotionally harms oneself or others and teach students not to make unwanted physical and
 12 verbal sexual advances, how to decline unwanted sexual advances or accept the refusal of unwanted
 13 sexual advances. Students shall be taught that it is wrong to take advantage of or to exploit an-
 14 other person. Materials and information shall be presented in a manner sensitive to the fact that
 15 there are students who have experienced sexual abuse.

16 (j) Validate through course material and instruction the importance of honesty with oneself and
 17 others, respect for each person’s dignity and well-being, and responsibility for one’s actions.

18 (k) Assist students in the development and practice of effective communication skills, the de-
 19 velopment of self-esteem and the ability to resist peer pressure.

20 (L) Encourage family communication and involvement to help students learn to make responsible
 21 decisions.

22 **(m) Include annually, beginning in grade three:**

23 **(A) An oral, written or digital lesson, lecture or presentation about human biology re-**
 24 **lated to pregnancy and human development inside a uterus;**

25 **(B) A high-definition ultrasound video that is at least three minutes in duration and that**
 26 **shows the development of the brain, heart, sex organs and other vital organs in early fetal**
 27 **development; and**

28 **(C) A video that shows the process of fertilization and every stage of human development**
 29 **inside the uterus and that identifies every significant marker of pregnancy until birth in re-**
 30 **lation to cell growth and organ development.**

31 (3) Any course in any public elementary and secondary school, the main purpose of which is to
 32 address human sexuality education or sexually transmitted infections, including human
 33 immunodeficiency virus, or both, must emphasize that abstinence from sexual contact is the only
 34 method that is 100 percent effective against unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections
 35 and human immunodeficiency virus when transmitted sexually. Abstinence must be stressed, but not
 36 to the exclusion of other material and instruction on contraceptive and infection reduction meas-
 37 ures. Courses described in this subsection must acknowledge the value of abstinence while not de-
 38 valuing or ignoring those students who have had or are having sexual intercourse.

39 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in
 40 biology.

41 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 336.455 by section 1 of this 2025 Act first apply to**
 42 **the 2026-2027 school year.**

43 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
 44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
 45 **July 1, 2025.**

