# MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION USURPS PARENTAL RIGHTS & PROPOSES RADICAL K-12 "HEALTH EDUCATION" STANDARDS

**Background:** In Fall 2024, a radical sex-ed overhaul bill (HB 6068) was introduce and defeated. Now, the Michigan State Board of Education is trying to incorporate many of the same radical ideas about sex and identity into health curriculum in K-12 grade public schools. This proposal bypasses the legislative process and usurps the role of parents by hiding radical, immoral teachings about sex and identity in a curriculum that parents can't opt out of or approve. Through these new Health Standards, children will be compulsorily indoctrinated with values that directly contradict the sincerely held religious beliefs of their families.

Instead of continuing the positive, proven success of our current health education standards and sex-ed law (MCL 380.1507) that protects the role of parents, these new standards propose to:

- **Add a new requirement to teach "gender" and "sexual identity,":** It teaches K-12 children about "gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, and explains that they are distinct components of every individual's identity." (8.2.SH, Section 1, Page 32) This framework falsely presents the LGBTQ+ lifestyle as moral, & normal.
- **Normalize False Understanding of Identity:** Teachers must "Explain how biological sex gender identity, and gender expression are distinct concepts and how they interact with each other." (8.2.SH, Section 2, Page 32)
- **Teach Children to Embrace Same Sex Attraction:** Teachers must "Explain that romantic, emotional, and/or sexual attractions can be towards an individual or the same gender and/or different genders(s), and that attractions can change over time." (8.2.SH, Section 3, Page 32)
- **Train Children to Make Health Decisions Without Parental Involvement:** Teaches minors about laws relating to "young people's sexual health and the rights of adolescents to maintain their own health" including "decisions related to sexual health." (8.4.SAF, Section 4, Page 34)
- **Normalize Abortion as "Reproductive Health":** refers to the assessing "validity" and what is "credible" sexual information, without articulating a standard for those words. Contextually, it seems likely that this standard will promote abortion as "reproductive care," deny the science of biology, and undermine the values of individuals of Judeo-Christian scripture and related teachings. (8.3.SH, Section 1-2, Page 34)
- **Train Children to Become LGBTQ+ Advocates and Activists:** Employs critical theory language to teach children about "health equity", sex-based "stigma", and LGBTQ injustices. (5.6.CEH on Page 27, 8.1.CEH on Page 30) "Promote[s] personal, family and community health and well-being" through "fostering empathy, inclusivity, and respect around issues related to gender and sexuality", teaching children to "support school and community programs" that affirm LGBTQ+ behavior, and to develop a plan for making "changes in a community." ("Advocacy and Health Promotion" 12.6.SH and12.6.CEH, Page 51)

Read the complete proposal for Health Standards Framework:
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/Links/2025/09/Draft-Health-Ed-Standards.pdf

Teaching radical ideology under the guise of "health education" will indoctrinate an entire generation of children, normalizing harmful behavior. In Matthew 18, Jesus makes is clear that we all have a role protecting innocent children, and God-fearing people must do so now.

**Key Concerns About the Wellbeing of Children, Parental Rights, and Religious Liberty:**

- **This proposal puts government in the place of parents.** This proposal goes far beyond the statuary role of public schools in "cooperating with the pupil's parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil's intellectual capabilities and vocational skills" (see MCL 380.10), teaching ideas that are primary informed a family's religious beliefs.

- **The proposed standards seek to shape children's values apart from their faith and family, raising First Amendment Religious Liberty Concerns.** The secular, queer affirming values proposed in these government standards undermine the religious values Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other religious families instill in their children at home.
    - As the US Supreme Court recently ruled in Mahmoud v. Taylor, *"A government burdens the religious exercise of parents when it requires them to submit their children to instruction that poses "a very real threat of undermining" the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill." [Citing Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U. S. 205, 218 (1972)]*
    - And that: *"The Board may not insulate itself from First Amendment liability by "weav[ing]" religiously offensive material throughout its curriculum and thereby significantly increase the difficulty and complexity of remedying parents' constitutional injuries."*

- **Parents know their children best.** They know their unique needs best. It is the "natural, fundamental right of parents to direct and control" the upbringing of their child. Parents should be able opt their child out of training in health and sexuality that they feel may have harmful effects on their child's wellbeing.

- **Trust between parents and children should be encouraged, not destroyed.** The proposed statutes also use language that sows distrust between children and parents, causing children to question if their parents are "trusted adults" who are "safe" to talk to about life's big questions.

- **The proposed standards normalize dangerous behavior**—sexual promiscuity, perversion, and sexual activity outside of marriage—things that many Michiganders feel are immoral. This undermines the very purpose of education in our state (See MI Constitution Article 8, Section 1 "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.").

- **These standards ought to be redrafted so that they focus only on academics and physical health**—not sexual or reproductive health. Alternately, we could keep our current standards and allow parents and local sex-ed advisory committees operating under MCL 380.1507 to decide if, what, when, and how sexual and reproductive health should be taught to the children of their district. Until the legislature changes this law, the State Board of Education should respect it. Teach health basics in health class, and teach sex-ed in sex-ed class only.

**A vote on the new "Health Standards Framework" could come as early as November 13, 2025.**

**Use Your Voice to Make a Difference:**

- **Call AND Email** every member of the State Board of Education (SBE), respectfully share your concerns, and ask them to represent your interests.
- **Share with others:** Share and encourage them to get engaged too.
- **Contact Your State Legislators:** Share your concerns that the SBE may be going beyond the limits of state law. Find your legislators at www.legislature.mi.gov/Legislature/Legislators
- **Pray:** Because prayer changes things!
- Provide Public Comment via the SBE Survey here: 

| Member | Mailing Address | Telephone, Fax and Email |
|---|---|---|
| **Mr. Marshall Bullock, II**<br>Treasurer<br>D – Detroit<br>Term Expires 1/1/29 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>Email: bullockm1@michigan.gov |
| **Ms. Ellen Cogen Lipton**<br>Co-Vice President<br>D - Huntington Woods<br>Term Expires 1/1/29 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>Email: liptone@michigan.gov |
| **Mr. Tom McMillin**<br>R - Oakland Township<br>Term Expires 1/1/33 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail: mcmillint1@michigan.gov |
| **Dr. Judith Pritchett**<br>Secretary<br>D - Washington Township<br>Term Expires 1/1/27 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail pritchettj1@michigan.gov |
| **Dr. Pamela Pugh**<br>President<br>D - Saginaw<br>Term Expires 1/1/31 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail pughp@michigan.gov |
| **Dr. Mitchell Robinson**<br>NASBE Delegate<br>D – Okemos<br>Term Expires 1/1/31 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>Email: robinsonm36@michigan.gov |
| **Ms. Nikki Snyder**<br>R - Goodrich<br>Term Expires 1/1/33 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail snydern@michigan.gov |
| **Ms. Tiffany Tilley**<br>Co-Vice President<br>D - West Bloomfield<br>Term Expires 1/1/27 | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail tilleyt@michigan.gov |
| **The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer**<br>Governor<br>ex officio | Executive Office<br>State Capitol<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-373-3400<br>Fax 517-335-6863<br>E-mail |
| **Dr. Michael F. Rice**<br>Chairperson, ex officio<br>State Superintendent | Michigan Department of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-0494<br>Fax 517-335-4565<br>E-mail ricem6@michigan.gov |
| **Ms. Liz Evans**<br>State Board Executive | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-6984<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail evanse3@michigan.gov |
| **Ms. Jeanne Justice**<br>Recording Secretary | State Board of Education<br>Post Office Box 30008<br>Lansing, MI 48909 | Telephone 517-241-7161<br>Fax 517-335-4575<br>E-mail justicej3@michigan.gov |