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LGBTQ Youth: LGBTQ Curricular Laws

No updates required since March 14, 2023

LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricular Standards: These laws explicitly require the state’s curricular standards to include LGBTQ people and history, such as in subjects like history, civics, or social studies. Often these laws also require inclusive representation of other communities, such as specific communities of color, people with disabilities, or religious minorities. Visit [GLSEN](#) to learn more about the importance of inclusive curricular standards, as well as the difference between curricular standards and curriculum.

Negative Law: Parental Opt-Out of LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula: The laws require parents to be notified in advance of any LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allow parents to opt their children out of these classes. These laws build on existing state laws about parental notification and opt-out for sex education, but the LGBTQ opt-out laws are distinct because they require parental notification and opt-out for *any* LGBTQ- or sexuality-related content, regardless of whether or not the content is in the context of sex education. For more about sex education policy, including parental notification laws, see [SIECUS](#)'s research.

Negative Law: “Don’t Say Gay or Trans” Laws: These policies restrict schoolteachers and staff from discussing LGBTQ issues and people at all. In older policies (such as in LA or TX), these ban such discussion within sex education programming, but they were often intentionally written to be vague and can be misapplied by schools to limit discussion and inclusion of LGBTQ people and issues in other parts of the curriculum, school events and programs, and even extracurricular activities (e.g., incorrectly interpreted to prohibit Gay-Straight or Gender-Sexuality Alliances (GSAs)). More recent policies (such as in FL) explicitly censor such discussions throughout all school curricula, not only in sex/health education.

Alabama

- State has “Don’t Say Gay or Trans” law. See [amendment](#) to [HB 322](#) (2022).
- Previously, state had “Don’t Say Gay” law ([SB 72](#), 1992), repealed by [HB 385](#) (2021).

Alaska

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Arizona

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allows parents to opt children out**. See [HB 2035](#) (see Sec 15-102(A)(5)) (July 2021).
 - Bill requires parental opt-in for all sex education classes, and allows for parental opt-out for any instruction “regarding sexuality” outside of sex education classes.
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” law (SB 1396, 1991), repealed by [SB 1346](#) (2019).



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Arkansas

- State has **“Don't Say Gay or Trans”** law. Applies to grades K-4. See [SB294](#)/Act 237 (2023).
- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allows parents to opt children out**. See [SB389](#) / [Act 552](#) (April 2021).

California

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [SB48](#) (2011).

Colorado

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [HB1192](#) (2019).

Connecticut

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [HB6619](#), included in budget bills [SB1202](#)/[HB6689](#) (see Sec 29(b) item 25, p44 of HB6689) (2021).

Delaware

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

District of Columbia

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Florida

- State has **“Don't Say Gay or Trans”** law. See [HB1557](#) (2022).
- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allows parents to opt children out**. See [HB241](#) (see Sec 1014.05(d), p8) (June 2021).

Georgia

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Hawai'i

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Idaho

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Illinois

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [HB246](#) (2019).

Indiana

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Iowa

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws



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Kansas

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Kentucky

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Louisiana

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” law (HB484, July 1987). See [La. Rev. Stat. § 17:281A\(3\)](#).

Maine

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Maryland

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Massachusetts

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Michigan

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Minnesota

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Mississippi

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” law ([HB1304](#), 1998). See [Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-171](#).

Missouri

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Montana

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula** and allows parents to opt children out. See [SB99](#) (April 2021).
 - Law is written as requiring parental notification of sex education, but defines sex education to include any information about sexual orientation or gender identity.

Nebraska

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Nevada

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [AB261](#) (2021).

New Hampshire



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- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

New Jersey

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [S1569/A1335](#) (2019).

New Mexico

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

New York

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

North Carolina

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” law ([H834/S788](#), 1995), repealed by [SB602](#) (2006).

North Dakota

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Ohio

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Oklahoma

- State has “**Don’t Say Gay**” law (HB1476, April 1987). See [Okla. Stat. tit. 70, § 11-103.3\(D\)](#).

Oregon

- State law requires **LGBTQ-inclusive curricular standards**. See [HB2023](#) (2019).

Pennsylvania

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Rhode Island

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

South Carolina

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws
- Formerly had “Don’t Say Gay” law ([Act No. 437](#), 1988), repealed by [court settlement](#) (2020).

South Dakota

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Tennessee

- State law requires **parental notification of LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and allows parents to opt children out**. See [HB529 / SB1229](#) (May 2021).



Texas

- State has “**Don't Say Gay**” law ([HB949/SB404](#), 1991; see relevant sections beginning page 49). See [Texas Health & Safety Code § 85.007](#) and [Texas Health & Safety Code § 163.002](#).

Utah

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws
- Formerly had “Don't Say Gay” law ([SB75](#), 2001; see former [Utah Code § 53A-13-101](#)), repealed by [SB196](#) (2017).

Vermont

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Virginia

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Washington

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

West Virginia

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Wisconsin

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Wyoming

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

U.S. Territories

American Samoa

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Guam

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Northern Mariana Islands

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

Puerto Rico

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws

U.S. Virgin Islands

- None of these LGBTQ-specific curricular laws



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