

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Review Date: July 2001

Safer Choices (1998)

Format: Curriculum

For grades 9-12 (**Panel recommends for middle school**)

Levels 1 and 2- \$42.00 each

Student workbooks- \$5.00 each per level

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends** the use of this curriculum for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

The “Safer Choices” curriculum consists of two units, 10-lessons each, to be taught over the course of two school years. The panel found “Safer Choices” to be a basic, well written and easy to understand curriculum. The panel felt that it is very teacher friendly - offering clear information, detailed directions for activities, and useful guidelines on how to respond to questions and issues that might emerge in the classroom. The panel liked the use of students in the implementation of the program but felt that their role is more accurately described as “peer helpers” rather than “peer leaders”. The panel suggested that the “peer helper” role be expanded to include more students on a rotating basis.

The panel expressed a number of concerns to be taken into consideration when implementing the curriculum. They felt that it was more appropriate for middle school than high school students. There was broad agreement that specific statistics (particularly those related to STIs and contraception) need to be updated. The panel felt that the curriculum did not adequately address the needs of GLBT youth and that supplemental information would need to be included.

Overall, the panel **recommends** the use of *Safer Choices* with a middle school aged audience. It is a good, general resource for teachers that can be easily supplemented with additional activities and information.

Review Criteria

	Mean Score
1. Technically accurate and up-to-date	2.4
2. Gender Fair	3.9
3. Sexuality Positive	3.9
4. Developmentally appropriate for age	3.2
5. Racially, ethnically, culturally non-biased	3.1
6. Sound educational methodology	3.9
7. Educational messages/strategies provided for learners at all points of risk continuum	3.8
8. Addresses the needs of all learners, including those with physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities.	2.3
9. Teacher-friendly	4.6

Scoring is based on a 5 point Likert scale, from poor (1) to excellent (5).

Panel Recommendations for Appropriate Audiences

Potential Audience	Recommend highly	Recommend	Reject	Not Applicable
General Audiences (Community groups, civic organizations, businesses, churches, community education)	4	14	1	8
School Settings (PK-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, college/adult, DD/EBD, teachers, school boards, school administrators, all personnel, youth groups)	12	16	1	0
Individual/Group Counseling (Health/social service clients at high risk and the professionals who serve them)	7	6	5	9
Multicultural/Inclusive Audiences (Addresses needs of communities of color; issues of sexual orientation, gender, disability)	4	12	8	4
Other (Describe)	4	0	0	0