

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Respecting Healthy Sexuality (1998)

Curriculum

Target Audience: 9-12 Graders

Cost: \$79.95

Education Development Center

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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:

Respecting Healthy Sexuality was developed as a part of a comprehensive school health curriculum that focuses on healthy sexuality, healthy relationships, and healthy decision-making. It is divided into two modules – one for grades 9-10 grades and one for grades 11-12. Both modules have 6 sessions.

The panel felt that this curriculum does a very good job of examining healthy sexuality and building skills essential for healthy relationships and positive choices. This is the focus of the curriculum and it is done well. The panel expressed concerned, however, that it does not include ways to protect against STIs, HIV, and pregnancy, nor specific information on STIs, HIV or contraception. They recommended that this information be added to the curriculum either by the leader or through a community speaker.

The curriculum includes many opportunities for discussion and activities to address social pressures that influence sexual behavior and to practice communication skills. It includes a mix of activities with individual, small group and large group activities. They felt that many of the activities required relatively strong reading skills and so may need to be adapted for some individuals and/or groups.

The panel found the curriculum to be multicultural and inclusive. Names in role-plays tend to be gender neutral and multi-cultural. Many panel members felt that the curriculum could have done a better job of integrating the needs and concerns of GLBT youth.

The panel felt that one of the strengths of the curriculum lay in how well designed it is for easy use by a teacher/facilitator. It includes good background information and specific instructions to help prepare the teacher for leading the lessons.

Overall, the panel recommended this resource as a part of a comprehensive sexuality education program.

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Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about the risks of teen sexual activity and about ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs.	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary focus is on healthy sexuality – skill building essential for healthy relationships and positive choices. ▪ Does not include specific information STI and pregnancy prevention ▪ Would need to supplement with up-to-date information on birth control and STI/HIV.
Focus - Focuses on reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection.	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus is on healthy relationships, peer pressure, boundaries and values. Does not focus on reducing specific behaviors that lead to STIs and pregnancy.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message about abstaining from sexual activity and/or using condoms or other forms of contraception.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offers a good definition of abstinence later in the curriculum. ▪ Did not address contraception.
Addresses Social Pressures - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does a good job of addressing social pressures which affect/influence sexual behaviors as well as other risk behaviors.
Communication Skills - Provides examples of and practice with communication, negotiation and refusal skills	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good discussion on intimacy and relationships. ▪ Many good small group and individual activities.
Teaching Methods - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.	4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good mix of discussion, small group and individual activities. ▪ Requires lots of reading. ▪ Includes lots of activities that actively involve participants.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students.	4.1	
Multicultural Perspective - Does this resource address the needs of communities of color; and/or issues of sexual orientation, gender, and disability?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource is multicultural and inclusive. ▪ Could integrate GLBT issues better.
Addresses needs of diverse learners.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May require high reading level. ▪ Employs a wide range of teaching techniques. ▪ English only.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curriculum is well laid out and activities are easy to follow and understand. ▪ Contains good background information to prepare teachers to teach the topic.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires a leader with moderate to strong content knowledge and group skills. ▪ Leader or community speaker would need to supplement with specific information regarding STIs and pregnancy prevention.
Presentation Quality – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?	4.1	
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly - 4 ▪ Recommend - 12 ▪ Reject - 1