

Not Recommended

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Best Friends (3rd ed., 1997)

Program Guide

For girls, grades 5-6 through grade 12

Cost: \$26,010; approximately \$650 per girl based on 40 participants

Best Friends Foundation

4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 310 Washington, DC 20008

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Does Not Recommend the use of this program guide for the following reasons:**

The program guide offers a curriculum of videos and discussions directed at young females. Although it displays a well-organized appearance, Best Friends provides confusing and contradictory messages while enforcing heterosexist ideas and gender stereotypes. The program consists of eight topics: friendship; love and dating; self-respect; decision making; alcohol abuse; drug abuse; fitness and nutrition; and AIDS and STDs. Although panel members stated that some sections contained useful information, they critiqued other sections (love and dating; decision making; alcohol abuse; AIDS and STDs; and the program model itself) for demonstrating a negative attitude about sexuality and for demeaning, shaming, and instilling fear in its participants.

The panel suggested that the language and ideas in this program do not reflect any understanding of modern youth, and questioned whether teens would find the program relevant or interesting. The panel also expressed concern about the program's cost effectiveness because of the high expense of the replication package and licensing. Although the panel might recommend using a few specific activities in this program guide, they found that the majority of the program is so inlaid with misinformation and negative attitudes that they would not recommend its use.

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Review Criteria

	Mean Score
1. Technically accurate and up-to-date	1.5
2. Gender Fair	1.2
3. Sexuality Positive	1.0
4. Developmentally appropriate for age	1.3
5. Racially, ethnically, culturally non-biased	1.3
6. Sound educational methodology	1.4
7. Educational messages/strategies provided for learners at all points of risk continuum	1.1

Scoring is based on a 5 point Likert scale, from poor (1) to excellent (5). The mean (average) is based on the assessments of the panel members who were present to review the material 11/19/98.

Panel Recommendations for Appropriate Audiences

Potential Audience	Recommend highly	Recommend	Reject	No response
General Audiences (Community groups, civic organizations, businesses, churches, community education)	0	1	17	0
School Settings (PK-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, college/adult, DD/EBD, teachers, school boards, school administrators, all personnel, youth groups)	0	2	16	0
Individual/Group Counseling (Health/social service clients at high risk and the professionals who serve them)	0	2	16	0
Multicultural/Inclusive Audiences (Addresses needs of communities of color; issues of sexual orientation, gender, disability)	0	0	17	1
Other (Describe)	0	0	3	0