

**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS TEEN SEXUAL INVOLVEMENT**

- WHEREAS, National PTA Purposes promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school and community; a close relation between the home and the school; and cooperation between educators and the general public to secure physical and social advantages for all children and youth;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS, “Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, and social well being, not merely the absence of disease” and early sexual involvement results in physical, emotional, and social consequences, and 66% of sexually active teens wish they had waited;<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7,8</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Health officials report a recent increase in rates of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among youth and young adults ages 15-29;<sup>9,10,11</sup> and
- WHEREAS, The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) Healthy Lifestyles secondary curriculum covers many health topics with limited time in a required one semester course in grades 7-8 and 9-12;<sup>12</sup> and
- WHEREAS, The absence of questions regarding sexual behavior on student surveys in Utah schools have made it difficult to evaluate sexual activity and program impact in Utah;<sup>13,14</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Health authorities recommend consistent and correct use of condoms to reduce the risk of STDs; however, condoms provide different levels of protection for various STDs and teen brain development and decision-making ability makes correct condom use problematic among teens;<sup>15,16,17</sup> now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support varied counseling approaches outside of school course work, with parental permission, for those students who need additional sustained support to delay sexual involvement or return to sexual abstinence; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support schools’ efforts to provide, with parental permission, district approval, and in accordance with state law, information about contraceptive methods and devices and their benefits and limitations for grades 9-12 in settings outside of the required courses while stressing the advantages of abstinence; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support state law and Utah State Board of Education rules to grant flexibility in required curriculum content for local districts to provide additional information about contraceptive methods and devices for STD/pregnancy prevention and risk reduction while including strategies to return to abstinence when addressing strictly high-risk students outside of the regular public school setting such as youth in custody, young mother programs, or alternative high schools; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA oppose “how to” methods, demonstrations and dispensing of contraceptive devices to unmarried minors in any public school setting; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage local districts to allow one student survey for grades 8-12 with

parental permission which includes limited questions about sexual intercourse and associated protective and risks factors of early sexual involvement; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA encourage parents to access testing and medical assistance from public and private health professionals in an individual setting for children who choose to initiate or continue sexual activity before marriage.

Documentation:

- <sup>1</sup>PTA Purposes, National PTA. <http://www.pta.org/1162.asp>.
- <sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Sexual Health". <http://www.cdc.gov/sexualhealth/>.
- <sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, "You Didn't Get pregnant, You Didn't Get AIDS, So Why Do You Feel So Bad?", November 2007.
- <sup>4</sup>U.S. Health Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, "If You Think Saying "No" is tough, Just Wait "Til You Say Yes", November 2007.
- <sup>5</sup>Joe McIlhane Jr, MD. and Freda McKisic Bush MD, Hooked: New Science on How Casual Sex is Affecting Our Children, Northfield Publishing, 2008, pp. 26-46, 147, 149.
- <sup>6</sup>The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, "By the Numbers: The Public Costs of Teen Childbearing in Utah", November 2006.  
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/costs/pdf/states/utah/fact-sheet.pdf>.
- <sup>7</sup>Bill Albert, "With One Voice 2004, America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy: An Annual National Survey", The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, December 2004.
- <sup>8</sup>Bill Albert, "With One Voice 2007, America's Adults and Teens Sound Off About Teen Pregnancy: An Periodic National Survey", The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, February 2007.
- <sup>9</sup>Utah Department of Health, "Utah Health Status Update: Adolescent Sexual Health", July 2007.  
[http://health.utah.gov/oph/publications/hsu/07Jul\\_AdolSexualHealth.pdf](http://health.utah.gov/oph/publications/hsu/07Jul_AdolSexualHealth.pdf).
- <sup>10</sup>Utah Department of Health, "Complete Indicator Profile of Adolescent Births", 2007.  
[http://ibis.health.utah.gov/indicator/complete\\_profile/AdoBrth.html](http://ibis.health.utah.gov/indicator/complete_profile/AdoBrth.html).
- <sup>11</sup>Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, "Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Epidemiological Profile, Utah 2003-2007", April 2009.  
<http://health.utah.gov/cdc/hivsurveillance/std%20docs/STD%20Epi%20Profile.pdf>.
- <sup>12</sup>Utah State Office of Education, Secondary Health Education Core Curriculum, August 2009.  
[http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/pe\\_health/pdf/Health%20Core%20with%20Cover.pdf](http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/pe_health/pdf/Health%20Core%20with%20Cover.pdf).
- <sup>13</sup>Utah Code 53A-13-301, <http://www.le.state.ut.us/UtahCode/getCodeSection?code=53A-13-301>, 53A-13-302, <http://www.le.utah.gov/UtahCode/getCodeSection?code=53A-13-302>.
- <sup>14</sup>National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies, "State Profiles: Utah", 2006.  
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/state-data/state-profile.aspx?state=utah>.
- <sup>15</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Condom Fact Sheet in Brief", November 2, 2009.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/condomeffectiveness/brief.html>.
- <sup>16</sup>Stan E. Weed, Ph.D., "Testimony Before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 23, 2008, pp. 9-10.
- <sup>17</sup>Daniel R. Wienberger, M.D., Brita Elvevag, Ph.D., Jay N. Giedd, M.D., "The Adolescent Brain: A Work in Progress", National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, June 2005, pp. iii, 1-4, 13, 17-19.