CONSENT
"...consent" shall mean a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating or social or sexual relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.

BRIEF HISTORY
2018
Legislature added language in an amendment to SB 743

2015
Added language regarding sexual predators, online predators and sexting

2007
Added language on federal abstinence only until marriage guidelines and restrictions related to abortion providers.

1999
State Statute 170.015 was approved

WHAT IT IS
Sexuality Education in Missouri is:
- Optional
  School Districts choose whether or not to provide sexuality instruction and what is included.
- Allowed to include information on contraception
  Or follow federal abstinence only until marriage guidelines.
- Opt-Out
  Sexuality education materials must be available for parents to review and parents have the right to opt their child/children out.

WHAT IT IS NOT
Sexuality Education in Missouri is not:
- Required
  School Districts have the option to offer it.
- Opt-In
  Parents always have the option to opt-out.
- Abstinence Only
  School Districts may choose to follow the abstinence only guidelines regarding contraception.
- Heavily Regulated
  Districts have local control over sexuality education and there is not required state oversight or standards beyond this statute.

NEW LANGUAGE FROM THE AMENDMENT

CONSENT
"..."consent" shall mean a freely given agreement to the conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating or social or sexual relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.'

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
"..."sexual harassment" shall mean uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature, especially by a person in authority toward a subordinate.'

SEXUAL VIOLENCE
"..."sexual violence" shall mean causing or attempting to cause another to engage involuntarily in any sexual act by force, threat of force, duress, or without that person's consent.'

The amendment also removed the following stigmatizing language:
“Pupils shall be taught to resist unwanted sexual advances and other negative peer pressure.”
SEXUAL HARASSMENT & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Young people experience sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- A study surveying 1,300 middle schoolers found that 43% had been victims of sexual harassment. (1)
- 1 in 3 female rape victims experienced it for the first time between 11-17 years old. (2)

Education is an essential piece of sexual violence prevention.

LEARNING STANDARDS

There are age-appropriate standards in both the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Health Grade Level Expectations and the National Sexuality Education Standards on sexual assault, sexual harassment and consent.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Health Grade Level Expectations
- ME4BK: Recognize and practice saying “no” to unhealthy actions and behaviors towards them
- ME4E7: Discuss sexual harassment issues and create a plan to address these issues
- ME4E8: Demonstrate strategies to prevent, manage, or report social problems related to abuse, exploitation, harassment or bullying

National Sexuality Education Standards
These topics fall in Personal Safety and Healthy Relationships.
For a full listing of standards visit: www.futureofsexed.org

LESSON PLANS FROM RIGHTS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY

A free comprehensive curriculum from Advocates for Youth. Available at http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/3rs-curriculum

Lesson 3: My Space, Your Space
Grade K
Lesson 3: Understanding Boundaries
Grade 6
Lesson 7: Warning Signs: Understanding Sexual Abuse and Assault
Grade 8

Lesson 3: It Wasn’t My Fault
Grade 9
Lesson 2: My Boundaries
Grade 11

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Loveisrespect.org
Amaze.org
KidsHealth.org
CDC.gov/ViolencePrevention/SexualViolence
CoachesCorner.org

REFERENCES


www.teenpregnancy-mo.org