

Advocating for Quality Abstinence Until Marriage Curricula in NC

Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee

An advocate needs to:

- 1. Get Informed** by reading through the law and the benefits of abstinence education. Click [The Healthy Youth Act Law 2010](#) link to view the law. Click [The Letter to Principals](#) to view a letter sent to all Principals and Superintendents in North Carolina suggesting a few curricula.
- 2. Find Out What's Going on in your Local School District.** This issue will probably be tackled at one of two places, (1) your local school board or (2) your local school administrative staff. Don't assume that one group knows what the other group is doing. The staff might be doing all the foundational work and then planning to take a recommendation to the Board. As you make phone calls to the Superintendent's office or to school board representatives keep these questions in mind:
 - What is being done to address the changes in the sex education law?
 - Which office or committee is working on this?
 - Are there any community representatives on that committee?
 - Are their meetings open to the public?
 - How can you stay up to date on progress on this issue?
 - How could you get involved or at least communicate your opinion on the matter?
- 3. Decide How to Take Action.** There are many ways to take action on what you have found. Respond appropriately to the situation in your local district. If there is action toward ensuring quality Abstinence until Marriage Curriculum then support it and encourage leaders. If what you have found presents the need for more action, here are some suggestions:
 - Educate your school district staff and board members on what the law really says. Humbly point out any inaccuracies in their understanding of the law.
 - Write emails and letters to key staff people and board members.
 - Go to the school board meetings and present your case during public comment time.
 - Go to the superintendent, principal or other administrator and share what the law says and what you have learned.
 - Write letters to the newspaper.
 - Alert your local pastors and church leaders on what you have found. Get them to take some of the action steps above.

If you are willing to be an advocate for your local school district, please contact Traci Griggs with the [Christian Life Committee](#) at the [Baptist State Convention of NC](#).

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Let's each do our part and together we can make a big difference for the young people in our state.