

FLORIDIANS AGREE:

Teens Need Comprehensive Sex Education

78% of registered voters support teaching sex education in Florida public schools



- Regardless of age, income or gender, **nearly 9 out of 10 Florida voters, including many who describe themselves as evangelical Christians, believe public schools should offer some form of sex education.** Voters who describe themselves as evangelical or fundamentalist Christians are only slightly less likely to agree that students need to hear about more than abstinence.
- An overwhelming **78% of registered voters** support a proposal that would require sex education to be taught in Florida public schools.
- When asked about the different approaches to sex education, **73% of all voters believe public schools should teach a comprehensive sex education program.**
- Support for a comprehensive program is strong among voters in all regions of the state, as well as among voters who are Hispanic, African American, senior (age 65+), and parents of school-aged children. **72% of Hispanic voters favor a comprehensive approach to sex education** over an abstinence-only approach.
- **Over half of all voters say they are more likely to support a state legislator who favors requiring comprehensive sex education in Florida** (57% more likely to support—31% no affect on support—12% less likely to support).
- Geographically the support for comprehensive sex education is consistent statewide. **More than 84% of voters in Miami, Tampa, Orlando and the Panhandle regions** say that it is important to teach comprehensive sex education in public schools.
- **And across party lines, there is overwhelming support among Republicans, Democrats and Independents** (Democrats 85% support—Independents 82%—Republicans 68%).
- **Only 5% of all voters** polled say that young people learn the majority of their information about sexual health and behavior at home—a number that remains unchanged, even among parents. **These voters do not believe that sex education is happening in the home, but instead, the media, internet and teen peer groups have become the primary providers of this education.**

Sources:

1. St. Petersburg Times administered a survey to 702 registered voters in Florida during February 2008.

2. Hamilton-Beattie & Staff and Public Opinion Strategies conducted a survey of 700 registered voters in Florida during January 2007.

Learn More About the Healthy Teens Act at
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For Informed and Safe Florida Teenagers