



A new sexual orthodoxy is being imposed upon children in public schools — one which is endorsed and promoted by the state, and conflicts with the fundamental religious convictions of countless families. Therefore, the public school system is no longer inclusive to people of faith.

NJ Resources — Sex Education in Public School Curriculum

LGBT Lessons developed by Garden State Equality far exceed the requirements of the “contributions” law passed in 2019. Sex Ed Learning Standards for Health and Physical Education include:

- o 5-year-old students - the “diversity and inclusion” mandate requires public schools to teach sexual orientation and transgender identity lessons in Kindergarten.
- o 7-year-old students must list medical names for genitals in mature words as vagina, vulva, penis, scrotum, and define reproduction.
- o 10-year-old students must be able to differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity.
- o 13-year-old students must define explicit sex acts — vaginal, oral, and anal sex.

Understanding the Issues —

[Patti Height & Shawn Hyland Video.](#)

Patti, with Out of Egypt ministries, helps us understand and reach the LGBT community. Shawn, with Family Policy Alliance, explains what is happening in NJ public schools (starts at 16:33.)

Here is what you can do:

Download print/distribute the resources provided.

We ask churches (and individuals) to send letters via email and/or U.S. mail to your NJ State Senator and 2 Assembly Members. Numbers matter, so we appreciate filling in the Tally Sheet so we can track how many letters are sent.

Contact your NJ Representatives online at: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>. Select your town and your NJ Representatives will be listed. Indicate who you want to communicate with and enter your messages.

Pastors and leaders should notify other pastors, associations of pastors, or faith-based groups of the threat and invite them to join in preparing a joint letter informing your legislators of your opposition.

School Choice —

Senate Bill 3002 and Assembly Bill 3000 give parents an alternative if the local public school would not allow them to opt their child out of lessons that violated their fundamental beliefs.

Easiest method to have an auto generated letter use the Family Policy Alliance of NJ's link [here](#).
<https://familypolicyalliance.com/jersey-votes-yes>

Links to download resources:

[Mobilization Info Action Plan.pdf](#)

[Parental Rights in Education.pdf](#)

[Letter to Legislators and Governor.pdf](#)

[Legislators and Governor Tally Sheet.pdf](#)

Send the tally sheets to:

newjersey@familypolicyalliance.com



Problem: A new sexual orthodoxy is being imposed upon children in public schools –one which is endorsed and promoted by the state, and conflicts with the fundamental religious convictions of countless families. Therefore, the public school system is no longer inclusive to people of faith. Parents of various religious and cultural backgrounds increasingly express apprehension in enrolling their children in public school because the environment is toxic and intolerant of their family’s deeply held religious beliefs. These controversial lessons include transgender identity in young grades, sexual themes and graphic illustrations in language arts, explicit sexual acts unrelated to intercourse or reproduction in middle school, changing of pronouns and world languages to remove a binary lexicon, and class discussions to revise student’s beliefs regarding sex, sexuality, and gender identity.

Solution: To remedy the state legislature’s violation of constitutional and religious rights, we must strongly support school choice polices, including Education Savings Accounts, for parents to have the ability to take control of their child’s education. In particular, Assembly bill 3000 and Senate bill 3002 offer families a voucher worth 75% of the cost of public school to enroll in a private school, if the public-school refuses to accommodate a parent’s request to opt their child out of lessons and materials that violates, or conflicts with the parent or guardian’s belief or practice regarding sex, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, conscience, ethics, morality, or religion.

Mobilization Campaign: Send 100,000 letters to Governor Murphy and local state legislators to support school choice or voucher bill.

Purpose: Bring greater awareness of this issue in the media and in the upcoming NJ elections.

- **Dates:** Sunday, April 18 – Sunday, May 16
- **Church Action:** Make Letters available in church lobby or email to members
 - Family Policy Alliance of New Jersey will provide form letter to be distributed
 - Names and address of legislators in church district and surrounding districts
 - Tally sheet on the total number of letters sent returned to newjersey@familypolicyalliance.com
- **Website:** Available April 12 - JerseyVotesYes.com

DATE _____

Dear _____

It is the duty of public schools to be unbiased and neutral in how they present religious beliefs and ideologies. Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others have historically been able to attend the public school because no particular view of God or religious practice is imposed upon students or endorsed by the state. For many, religious conviction includes a robust understanding of human sexuality.

Unfortunately, a new sexual orthodoxy is being imposed upon our children in public schools –one which is endorsed and promoted by the state, and conflicts with the fundamental religious convictions of countless families. Therefore, the public school system is no longer inclusive to people of faith. Parents of various religious and cultural backgrounds increasingly express apprehension in enrolling their children in public school because the environment is toxic and intolerant of their family’s deeply held religious beliefs.

I urge you to honor the constitutional rights of all students to freedom of conscience, thought, and speech. This means the state is not entitled to pass legislation that requires schools to impose a sexual code on our children. Yes, schools should ensure students know what kind of conduct is unacceptable, like actions that constitute bullying and harassment. Yet, this does not mean the government has a right to impose a sexual framework onto students – particularly one that contradicts so many families’ religious convictions and practices. That is clearly within the bounds of moral and social ideology, an area constitutionally reserved to families – not the government – to teach children.

Currently, schools will not even allow parents to opt their child out of these lessons and materials.

To remedy the state legislature’s violation of constitutional and religious rights, I request that you strongly support school choice polices, including Education Savings Accounts, for parents to have the ability to take control of their child’s education. In particular, Assembly bill 3000 and Senate bill 3002 offer families a voucher worth 75% of the cost of public school to enroll in a private school, if the public-school refuses to accommodate a parent’s request to opt their child out of lessons and materials that violates, or conflicts with the parent or guardian’s belief or practice regarding sex, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, conscience, ethics, morality, or religion.

Your commitment to protect the minds of children and the relationship between parents and their child is of the utmost importance to me. Please contact me with your response on your decision to support school choice options, vouchers, or educational savings accounts. As a concerned and engaged constituent, I look forward to hearing from you in writing.

Sincerely,

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHURCH REPORTING FORM

Instructions to Church Coordinator:

Please email this completed form to newjersey@familypolicyalliance.com

One form should be filled out per legislative district number

Your Church/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

NJ Legislative District Number: _____

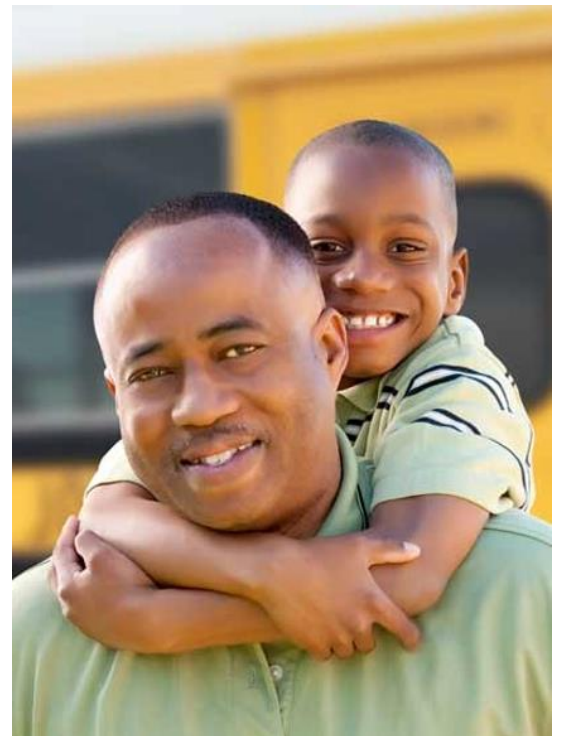
Total letters sent: _____

Parents should be the key decision makers for the education of their children.

☑ Senate bill 3002 and Assembly bill 3000 offer families a **scholarship worth 75% of the cost of public school to enroll in a private school**, if the public-school refuses to accommodate a parent’s request to opt their child out of lessons and materials that violate or conflict with the parent or guardian’s belief or practice regarding sex, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, conscience, ethics, morality, or religion.

☑ **69% of people support** the use of tax dollars designated for their child’s education to send their child to the public or private school which best serves their needs. That includes 70% of Black families, 68% Hispanic, 68% Asian, and 70% White. <https://www.federationforchildren.org/support-for-school-choice-surges-as-schools-start/>

☑ Scholarships would cover tuition at most private schools, while allowing public schools to retain funding. Most private schools in New Jersey cost less than \$14,000 per year. The average cost per student in New Jersey public school is \$21,000. That means that in many cases, families can cover their tuition while public schools get more funding than the minimum the bill requires.



The public school is no longer inclusive to people of faith.

☒ A new sexual orthodoxy is being imposed upon children in public schools –one which conflicts with the **fundamental religious convictions** of countless families. These mandated **lessons do not reflect the diverse student body** within public schools consisting of Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and other religious faiths with traditional moral beliefs.

Parents should be able to make educational decisions for their children that reflect their deeply held values.

- ✘ **March 1, 2021 - Assembly bill 4454 was signed into law.** Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, public schools are required to teach transgender identity and sexual orientation diversity lessons starting in kindergarten. That means starting this fall, schools will be teaching a harmful and subjective view of sexuality to 5-year-old children.
- ✘ **June 3, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education adopted new learning standards for Health Class.** Part of these revised standards for 8th grade include **2.1.8.SSH.9: Define vaginal, oral, and anal sex.** Schools will now be required to teach 13-year-old students explicit sexual acts.
- ✘ **January 31, 2019, Senate bill 1569 was signed into law.** Public schools are now required to teach “inclusive” LGBT themed lessons in multiple subjects in middle and high school. Lesson plans developed for pilot programs far exceed the historical “contributions” mandated by the law, wading into the territory of social indoctrination.
- ✘ This undermines what Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the *Obergefell* majority opinion (Supreme Court case that legalized same sex marriage in 2015): The longstanding view of marriage as one man and one woman, Kennedy said, “**has been held—and continues to be held—in good faith by reasonable and sincere people here and throughout the world.**” The Court also said that many “**reach that conclusion based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises, and neither they nor their beliefs are disparaged here.**” Unfortunately, LGBT curriculum laws are being used as a tool to do exactly that—disparage people who hold traditional beliefs.

Public schools should be neutral in their presentation of religious beliefs, worldview, and political ideology.

NEW JERSEY PARENTAL RIGHTS IN THE CLASSROOM

You have rights when it comes to controversial classroom content

What content is in my child's classroom that I should be concerned about?

Abortion: N.J. teachers are required to teach abortion as a pregnancy outcome and teach your child about their legal rights to obtaining an abortion. This means the school will teach your child they can get an abortion at any age, without parental knowledge or consent, at the expense of the state¹.

LGBT Sex-Ed & More: N.J. schools are required to teach that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sexual relationships are safe and healthy options for adolescents and teach the normality of same-sex families to children in kindergarten and up. N.J. State Board of Education freely and openly refers parents and students to Planned Parenthood resources (and their partner resources Advocates for Youth) like "There's No Place Like Home. . . For Sex Education."² N.J. also recently passed a law that requires LGBT experiences be taught throughout all subject matters, where there is not an option to opt out because that would be considered discriminatory and a violation of state law.³

Consent Education: N.J. is one of only 8 states that requires teaching 6th graders (11 & 12-year-olds) and up how to consent to sex.⁴ Many parents would probably object to their 11-year-old consenting to sex for moral, ethical, religious, and legal reasons.

N.J. PARENT RESPONSIBILITY & SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY



Curriculum Review:

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY: You have the right to request a copy of your child's school curriculum from your local school board of education., but you also might have to pay for the copy of the curriculum⁵. Your school might also host a workshop for you to review curriculum. In addition, local school boards often form curriculum review committees that allow parents to serve, giving you a definitive voice in choosing your school district's curriculum.



¹N.J. Dep't. of Ed., *New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Comprehensive Health and Physical Education*, <https://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/chpe/> (Click Download PDF or Word Document to review)

²N.J. Dep't. of Ed., *Resources for Parents: Student Sexual Development*, <https://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/fle/StudentSexuality.pdf>

³ See, N.J. Dep't. of Ed., <https://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/chpe/>. See also, N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18a:35-4.36 (2019).

⁴ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18a:35-4.38 (2019).

⁵ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 47:1a (2019)(law on public records).; See also Qu. 4 of FAQ on https://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_hfle.htm.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY: School curriculum is a matter of public record in N.J. and *must* be released to parent’s upon request.⁶ A parent may be charged for the cost of copying the documents. The N.J. Department of Education also has Model Curriculum on their website.⁷

Notification

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY: Be sure to read all materials your child’s school sends home, check your local school district’s website, and your individual school’s website for notifications. Be proactive in monitoring resources and information your child’s school produces.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY: Local school districts are required to notify parents about their right to excuse their child from instruction, without penalty⁸. Unfortunately, N.J. Schools do **not** have to notify parent’s about far more controversial issues like if their child attends school presenting himself/herself as the opposite gender.⁹

Opt Your Child Out / Excuse Your Child from Class

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:

- If you want to pull your child out of a controversial *health, family life education, or sex education* class, you **must** submit a signed statement of conscience to the school principal that a part of the lesson conflicts with your conscience, sincerely held moral, or sincerely held religious beliefs, and you want your child to be excused for that portion of the course.¹⁰ You may **not** be able to opt your child out of classes, other than the ones mentioned above, for reasons of conscience.
- Most classes in N.J. are now required to include regular mentions of LGBT-related social contributions- -but you can ask to review a teacher’s lesson plans and discuss options with the school teacher and principal. They may be willing to work with you.
- You have the right to opt your child out of invasive surveys, as described above.
- You may request a change in classroom or teacher of your child, but check with your local school administrators for their policy regarding classroom changes.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Your child’s school cannot withhold credits or graduation from your child for being excused from classes.¹¹
- Your child’s school **must** provide alternative instructional content and activities (aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Healthy and Physical Education and the local health education curriculum) if your child is opted-out of lessons¹².
- The school must allow parents to opt their child out of surveys and assessments that contain invasive or deeply personal questions about your student’s sexuality, gender identity or expression, sexual experiences, moral, religious, political beliefs, and emotional or psychological problems.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ N.J. Dep’t. of Ed., *Model Curriculum*, <https://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/>.

⁸ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:35-4.7.; *See also*, District Policy 5250 “Excusal From Class or Program”

<https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=5250&id=9ee47640ba314e5fa5c7139bb7be6a8b>

⁹ N.J. Dep’t. of Ed., *Transgender Student Guidance for Schools Districts*

<https://nj.gov/education/students/safety/sandp/transgender/Guidance.pdf>

¹⁰ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:35-4.7.; *See also*, District Policy 5250 “Excusal From Class or Program”

<https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=5250&id=9ee47640ba314e5fa5c7139bb7be6a8b>; *See also Question 3 of FAQ’s on NJ Education Website*, https://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_hfle.htm.

¹¹ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:35-4.7

¹² N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 6A:8-3.1. *See also*, e.g. Montclair Board of Education Policy [5250](#) Excusal from Class or Program (December 12, 2016) (Policy 5250 seems to be fairly consistent across all New Jersey School districts).

- Schools must do their best to accommodate change in class/teacher requests as well.

☑ In the Classroom



PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:

- You have the federally protected right to review teacher lesson plans, examine textbooks, and other supplemental materials (like videos, activities, games etc.).¹³ Be sure to give the teacher ample notice you'd like to review their lesson plans or other instructional materials.
- In addition, you have the federally protected right to observe your child's class.¹⁴
- You also have the federal protected right to speak with school staff and participate in your child's learning activities.¹⁵

Things to listen for or watch for in health/sex education/ family life classes might be:

- Is your child's teacher "stressing abstinence"? By law, schools are required to *stress* abstinence as the only completely reliable method of prevention.¹⁶
- How does the teacher address abortion as a pregnancy outcome? Plan to discuss with your child what your family perspective is on this issue.
- How are families portrayed in lessons and how does the teacher define "safe and healthy relationships?" Plan to discuss with your child what your family perspective is on this issue.
- Did/does the teacher plan to distribute a non-academic survey to students? Definitely review this beforehand and decide if this is appropriate for your child. You can opt your child out of taking personal surveys.

PARENTS CAN:

- Review Curriculum
 - Review All Teacher Materials
 - Observe Classes
 - Say No to Controversial Lessons
 - Say No to Surveys
-

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY:

- The school should provide you a copy of a teacher's lesson plans and other materials upon request and with adequate time given.¹⁷
- The school must also create an environment that respects your child's religious and moral beliefs.¹⁸
- New Jersey schools must allow parents to observe classes and give parents open access to have conversations with teachers and other school staff about your child's lessons.¹⁹

¹³ Family Educational and Privacy Rights (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.S. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (This a federal law that gives parents the right to inspect educational records of their child and instructional materials that relates to their child. Local schools are responsible for establishing the appropriate procedure. *See also*, Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95, Section 8101

¹⁴ Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95: 8101;1116.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:35-4.20:21.

¹⁷ *Supra* note 14.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

☑ How to Participate

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY: In New Jersey, parents have many opportunities to get involved in the decision-making process involving their child’s education. You can attend, serve on, or speak at:

- **Local School Board Meetings** (state law requires that the public have an opportunity to speak at board meetings. Make your voice heard!) and **NJ State Board of Education Meetings**
- **Parent Advisory Committees** chosen by your local district board of education²⁰
- **Curriculum Review Committees** chosen by your local district board of education²¹
- **School Improvement Committees**
- **Open Houses/School Orientations**
- **Curriculum Workshops/Curriculum Nights**



SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY: In most of the examples listed above, local school districts are required by the state board of education and federal law to provide community and parental involvement. Check your school’s website, local district board website, and the state board of education website for more information on how you can start the process of participating and being active in the decision-making process of your child’s school and school district.

☑ School Choice

Have you considered all your school choice options? In addition to public and charter schools, New Jersey has private-schooling and allows homeschooling. While we will continue to fight for parental rights in public schools and urge parents to get involved, you might find that your child’s needs are best served by exploring all your school choice options. Even if you choose another school choice option such as private school, we encourage you to remain involved and continue to monitor the content your child is being exposed to. Links to New Jersey school choice options include:

- **Inter-district Public;** <https://www.state.nj.us/education/choice/>
- **Charter School Option;** <https://www.state.nj.us/education/chartsch/allcharters.htm>
- **Non-Public School Options;** <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/directory/nonpub.php>
- **Homeschooling;** https://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_homeschool.htm

☑ New Jersey Resources

- Find your Local School District by visiting: <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/directory/pub.php>
- Parent’s Handbook to New Jersey Schools (<https://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/resources/ParentHandbook.pdf>)

²⁰ See, N.J. ADMIN. CODE <https://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap8.pdf>.

²¹ See N.J. ADMIN. CODE <https://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap8.pdf>; parental involvement required by federal law Every Student Succeeds Act Public Law 114-95.

- Transgender Student Guidance for School Districts <chrome-extension://oemmndcblldboiebfnladdacbfdmadadm/https://nj.gov/education/students/safety/sandp/transgender/Guidance.pdf>
- Local School District Policy for Excusing Child From Class example: <https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=5250&id=9ee47640ba314e5fa5c7139bb7be6a8b>
- Resources for Parents: Student Sexual Development <https://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/fle/StudentSexuality.pdf>
- Frequently Asked Questions Regarding New Jersey Comprehensive Health and Physical Education https://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_hfle.htm

Addresses for Envelopes - District 9

Governor Phil Murphy
Office of Governor PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

District 9 Legislators

Towns: (parts of Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean) Barnegat, Barnegat Light, Bass River, Beach Haven, Beachwood, Berkeley, Eagleswood, Galloway, Harvey Cedars, Lacey, Little Egg Harbor, Long Beach, Ocean Gate, Ocean Township (Ocean), Pine Beach, Port Republic, Seaside Park, Ship Bottom, South Toms River, Stafford, Surf City, Tabernacle, Tuckerton, Washington (Burlington)

Senator Chris Connors

620 West Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ 08731

Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove

620 West Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ 08731

Assemblyman Brian Rumpf

620 West Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ 08731

**If you do not reside in the towns listed above, you live in a different legislative district.*

How to find your district:

1. Go to www.njleg.org
2. Click on **Find Your Legislator** in the left-hand menu column under the second heading "Members"
3. Then on the new page, click on **Municipality** in the right-hand menu column
4. Then **select your town** listed in alphabetical order
5. Your legislative district will appear on the top of the page with a listing of the towns in that district.
Click on the bold red hyperlink - Legislators in District #
6. The address and photos of your three legislators will be listed!