

Talking Points to Support Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) Education:

- We are in favor of a sex ed approach that is called Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) education which teaches teens skills and health benefits of avoiding risky behaviors and waiting for sex until they are older. CDC Fact: More and more teens ARE waiting to have sex. We want to support that healthy choice.
- From Ascend: weascend.org
 - Authentic SRA education aims to empower today's youth to make healthy, informed decisions about sex
 - We are advocates for parents and communities. We strongly believe that they should have the choice to select Sexual Risk Avoidance for their children.
 - It is important that schools, parents and communities are given a choice in sex education approaches. Respecting local control and community standards is an important consideration in how sex education is taught.
 - There are still far too many youth who have never heard that their futures can be brighter if they don't engage in risky behaviors, like teen sex.
 - There are far too many policy-makers who don't know that teens can and are waiting for sex in record numbers.
 - SRA is a Realistic Goal for Youth
 - Most teens have not had sex, and about half of those who have, wish they had waited.
 - Over the past 25 years, there has been a 28% decrease of teens who have had sex showing that the SRA approach is realistic and increasingly resonates with youth.
 - It is time to reinforce this positive trend among youth.
 - We believe where youth live or what their current reality looks like should not exclude them from the tools for the best possible health outcomes and future success.
 - Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) programs focus on preventing the well-documented factors that lead to poverty and offer practical and effective solutions for addressing this persistent societal concern.
 - SRA Programs encourage The Success Sequence: A Positive Formula for Youth
 - If youth adopt these behaviors, in sequence, as a millennial, they risk only a 3% chance of living in poverty as adults:
 - Graduate
 - Get a full-time job
 - Wait until 21 and married before having children
- Sexual Risk Avoidance education is science-based and focused on helping youth achieve optimal health outcomes.

- The most widely used SRA programs in the US share medically accurate information on contraception without demonstrating or distributing various methods. SRA programs always give this information within a broader conversation that strongly emphasizes the value of waiting for sex in order to avoid all sexual risk. SRA programs do not normalize teen sex, especially important, since CDC data shows that nearly 70% of 15-17 year olds are NOT having sex.
- In an increasingly sexualized culture ALL youth, regardless of orientation or past sexual experience, need and deserve the information and skills that can help them make choices that can eliminate risk.
- Encouraging young people, irrespective of their sexual orientation, to delay sex promotes equality in health for all.
- Every teen deserves to receive the knowledge and skills needed to achieve optimal health. To do otherwise exhibits an unacceptable form of “advantage discrimination” to those at greatest risk.
- Those who promote programs that normalize teen sex as an expected adolescent behavior sell our youth short to the soft bigotry of low expectations. In addition, a recent Barna survey revealed that about 40% of teens say that sex education makes them feel pressured to have sex, contradicting the claim by “comprehensive” sex education advocates that they prioritize “waiting.”
- In public health, a risk avoidance approach is always given primacy when addressing health risk behaviors. For example, the message regarding smoking is: “Don’t begin smoking, but if you are already smoking, it is important to stop.” This model should be applied to sex education as well.

Source:

<https://weascend.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Sexual-Risk-Avoidance-Education-What-You-Need-to-Know.pdf>

<https://weascend.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Success-Sequence-and-Poverty-Prevention.pdf>