

HIV and Sex Education Guidelines for Guest Speakers



1. Background Information for Speakers

- ◆ Be familiar with **state laws** governing both HIV/STD education and sex education in Michigan public schools.
- ◆ Know that most decisions about the content of programs are made at **the district level**. This means that **teachers** need to follow the **district's approved program**.
- ◆ Understand that school districts need to go through a **multi-step approval process when changing** the content or methods of their HIV/STD and/or sex education programs.
- ◆ **Provide schools in advance** with as much information as possible regarding content, methods, and educational materials that will be included in a presentation.
- ◆ Understand that the scope of the presentation needs to **stay within the outlined curriculum objectives** for the grade level(s) being addressed. When in doubt, speakers should err on the side of caution.
- ◆ Be sure a trained **teacher stays in the room** during a guest presentation.

2. Questions to Ask in Advance to Stay within School Policy

- ◆ What topics are covered at each of the grade levels?
- ◆ Are there certain topics that cannot be discussed at all?
- ◆ Are there topics that can only be discussed in a **limited fashion**?
- ◆ Are there topics that can be discussed **only if students ask questions**?

3. Questions to Ask in Advance to Maximize Effectiveness of the Presentation

- ◆ How does this presentation fit into the larger HIV/STD prevention program? Where does it fall? What has already been covered? What is still going to be covered?
- ◆ What does the school/teacher see as the **major goal of this presentation**?
 - Building empathy?
 - Increasing students' sense of vulnerability?
 - Conveying information? About what topics/issues?

Questions? Call Laurie Bechhofer, HIV/STD Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education, BechhoferL@Michigan.Gov or 517-335-7252.