

# **“Standards for Education on Character, Relationships and Optimal Sexual Development”**

*A Framework for Health and Wholeness*

## **Executive Summary- November 2020**

For the past century, sex education in schools has drawn much controversy. The debate over what to teach children and how it should be taught, and by whom, has produced a whole host of varying curriculum content and methodology. In 2012, Future of Sex Education - which included SIECUS (Sex Ed for Social Change) and Advocates for Youth, published “National Sexuality Education Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12.” These standards were updated in 2020, and include concerning instruction on “safe and effective” contraception (including emergency contraception), sexual orientation and gender expression (including “cisgender, transgender, gender nonbinary, gender expansive” for elementary students), and demonstrating correct use of barrier methods (including “external and internal condoms, dental dams” for middle school students). These standards have enjoyed widespread acceptance as “the” national standards.

In 2018, a national “coalition for a new sexual revolution” began developing an alternative set of “national” standards to compete with and ultimately replace the FoSE standards. Enclosed you will find Phase 2 of this collaborative effort facilitated by Medical Institute for Sexual Health. This phase includes the text of the standards for each of four age group levels and supporting references. The final phase is expected in January 2021, and will include professional endorsements, introductory content and glossary that will complete the project. The purpose of this project is to provide research-based, age-appropriate, evidence-informed standards for education on relationships and sexual health for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These standards will be used to set education policy and drive curriculum decisions at the local, state, national and international level. The mission of Medical Institute is “Advancing wholeness by empowering optimal sexual health.” These standards seek to do just that.

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