

Analysis of *Get Real*

Get Real is a sex education curriculum for middle and high school students being pushed as fulfilling the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks. Getrealeducation.org and Etr.org/get-real/

The following is an analysis of the textbooks used in the middle school grade levels.

Some overall considerations:

- *Get Real* is essentially the **same** in content as the website *Maria Talks only aimed* for 11, 12, and 13 year old kids.
- It could easily serve as a recruiting tool in a captured audience for service providers such as the authors - Planned Parenthood.
- Sexually explicit topics (oral sex, use of dental dams etc.), and the less effective decision-making models are not age appropriate.
- The curriculum is not comprehensive; in an age of ultrasound, not one image of prenatal life is given; long term side effects of certain contraceptives for smokers and others at risk are not mentioned, nor is the abortifacient nature of certain methods explained.
- “Parent Tips” are not necessarily aimed at parents, but “caring adults”. Who might a student identify as a “caring adult” – a 17-year-old brother or boyfriend?
- Failure rates for condom use in pregnancy prevention are given as 2-18% on the protection methods chart. Nowhere is it explained that the failure rate for disease prevention is higher, since pregnancy can only occur 4-6 days per monthly cycle.

Grade 6: schoolchildren aged 11

1. Students are directed to contact information from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the GLBT National Help Center, and a website called *I Wanna Know* for information on:
 - a. Birth control
 - b. Abortion (“pregnancy options”)
 - c. Locations of nearest centers (providers)
 - d. “peer counseling” by phone or e-mail (GLBT site)
 - e. Emergency contraception.....p.5

2. In scenario 4 for discussion, feeling “comfortable and ready” is established as a criterion for sexual activity (for 11 year olds?).....p. 30

Grade 7: school children aged 12

1. Students are directed to contact information from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the GLBT National Help Center, and a website called *I Wanna Know* for information on:
 - a. Birth control
 - b. Abortion (“pregnancy options”)
 - c. Locations of nearest centers (providers)
 - d. “peer counseling” by phone or e-mail (GLBT site) Who are the peers? Is there a safety issue?
 - e. Emergency contraception.....p.3
2. Introduces the topic of sexual orientation.....p.5
3. Begins the discussion of birth control, “protected sex”.....p.7
4. Begins portraying homosexuality as natural.....p.11
5. Steers kids struggling with sexual identity to gay groups (see item 1).....p.18
6. Begins a discussion of condom use to reduce the risk of STI’s.....p.29
7. Gives a sexually explicit description of “technical abstinence” to reduce the risk of STI’s.....p. 30
8. Introduces the topics of oral and anal sex in chart on STI’s.....p 31, 32
9. Repeats information for “services”, including abortion (“pregnancy options”).....p.35
10. Explains that condoms can be obtained from the school nurse; explains in sexually explicit terms how to use a dental dam.....p.36, 37
11. With respect to condom uses the term “protects ”vs. “reduces the risk”.....p. 36, 39
12. Directs students to places where they can get condoms.....p. 39, 40

Grade 8: school children 13 years old

1. Students are directed to contact information from Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the GLBT National Help Center, and a website called *I Wanna Know* for information on:
 - a. Birth control

- b. Abortion (“pregnancy options”)
- c. Locations of nearest centers (providers)
- d. “peer counseling” by phone or e-mail (GLBT site) Who are the peers? Is there a safety issue?
- e. Emergency contraception.....p.3

2. Students are explicitly directed to service providers.....p.5

- 3. Discusses dental dams for oral sexp.23
- 4. Repeats a sexually explicit description of “technical abstinence” to reduce the risk of STI’s.....p. 30
- 5. Repeats the topics of oral and anal sex in chart on STI’s.....p 26,27
- 6. Repeats that condoms can be obtained from the school nurse; explains in sexually explicit terms how to use a dental dam.....p.19, 20
- 7. Teaches students that they can get birth control without parental knowledge or consent.....p.31-32**