

SEPARATE PROGRAM FOR ABSTINENCE EDUCATION
Welfare Reform Act of 1996 amending
Title V of the Social Security Act

The Federal government developed the following definition of “Abstinence Education” and provided funds in the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, amending Title V of the Social Security Act, for programs teaching abstinence consistent with the definition:

“Abstinence education means an educational or motivational program which—

- (A) has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- (B) teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school age children;
- (C) teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
- (D) teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;
- (E) teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
- (F) teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child’s parents, and society;
- (G) teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and
- (H) teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.”