



HOW TO EVALUATE YOUR SCHOOL'S SEX ED PROGRAM

1. How does the program define success?

*SRA programs are successful when participants cease sexual activity and delay sexual initiation, ideally until a long-term, faithful, committed relationship like marriage. **SRR programs are considered successful when participants reduce their number of sexual partners and increase their use of contraception.

2. What percentage of time is spent on risk reduction strategies compared to risk avoidance strategies?

Most SRA programs include some discussion of contraception “within a broader conversation that strongly emphasizes the value of waiting for sex in order to avoid all sexual risk.”¹ On the other hand, most SRR programs will identify abstinence as the best method to avoid risk, while spending significantly more time demonstrating how to use contraceptive methods and how to negotiate their use within a relationship.

3. Who is providing the instruction and do they disclose any conflicts of interest?

If a school is using an SRR program, does the agency providing instruction profit from the sale of contraceptive methods encouraged in the course? If the program is successful (as described in the first question), is the agency providing the instruction more likely to see an increased or decreased client load as a result?

Notes:

***SRA** is Sexual Risk Avoidance: avoiding risk behaviors and the elimination of all associated risks of those behaviors.

****SRR** is Sexual Risk Reduction: limiting risk behaviors and managing associated risks of those behaviors.

¹Ascend, “Understanding Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) and Correcting Misinformation” (Washington D.C.: Ascend, 2016).