

Teen PEP is a program being promoted by the NJ Department of Health and Human Services throughout NJ public schools. I am a parent whose children attend a Teen PEP program school.

I would like to know: What formal notification was made to the community that the Teen PEP curriculum was being considered as a course of study for our district, and what other curriculums were considered? When curriculum is introduced, how available it is to the community and parents to be reviewed in its entirety? How available curriculum is to be viewed in its entirety to parents of incoming or new students to the district?

PEER EDUCATORS TEACH FRESHMEN ABOUT SEXUAL BEHAVIOR:

“Teen PEP Peer Educators are to act as a resource to peers and the school community by providing information about sexuality issues.”

In a nutshell, PEER EDUCATORS ARE NOT EDUCATORS AND THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED to fulfill these responsibilities or commitments! Are school districts ready to become liable for the fallout of unforeseen problems that this program creates when 16 and 17 year-old children and 18 year-old young adults are called “Educators” and attempt to guide and direct 13 and 14 year old children on “responsible sexual behavior”?

Example: What will Peer Educators do when a freshman boy that attended the workshop on how to put a condom on confides in them that he took the information he learned from those 17 year olds and decides that he is now ready to engage in sexual intercourse for the first time with a girl (that happens to have had many partners before him), and successfully applies the condom, yet being that it is not 100% effective for preventing pregnancy or Sexually Transmitted Infections, the girl is now pregnant and they both have Genital Warts, which could be passed along to her baby in childbirth, and is associated with cervical cancer? Even more so, what will the parent say *if* and when they find out about this? I imagine they might refer back to the program outline that says: *“The program empowers teens with knowledge and information so they will have the tools they need to make responsible decisions”* and perhaps feel misled and ill-informed.

Unit 8: Understanding and Preventing HIV/AIDS – page 21 – How to Use Vaginal/Latex Barrier

“Always use a new latex barrier if you switch from oral/anal to oral/vaginal sex to reduce the risk of infection from harmful anal germs.”

Does the writer of this curriculum really believe that these instructions regarding the Vaginal/Latex barrier fully disclose all the ramifications of engaging in the activities stated? Do those who approved this curriculum at schools even know that this is what they are teaching teens? WebMD, under Anal Sex Safety and Health Concerns says: Penetration can tear the tissue inside the anus, allowing bacteria and viruses to enter the bloodstream. This can result in the spread of sexually transmitted infections including HIV. Studies have suggested that anal exposure to HIV poses 30 times more risk for the receptive partner than vaginal exposure. Exposure to the human papillomavirus (HPV) may also lead to the development of anal warts and anal cancer. Do you teach that in you anal sex discussions?