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#### **Instructions**

This tool is designed as a companion to the *Professional Learning Standards for Sex Education* (PLSSE) to help identify needs for professional development and/or technical assistance among those who teach or will teach sex education.

The PLSSE is divided into four domains: context for sex education, professional disposition, best practices, and key content areas. Each domain includes indicators related to educator's knowledge of content, familiarity with teaching methods, and understanding of best practices. School administrators and educators can use the PLSSE to determine areas where teachers are most proficient and those in which additional professional development may be needed.

This Assessment Tool is designed to make that task even easier by asking educators to rate their own capability and comfort. The tool can be given to current educators to complete or could be used to develop questions for determining qualifications of future educators.

Educators should be assured that their responses will be treated confidentially and are not intended as part of a performance review.

Administrators should follow up on any area in which educators express concerns about capability or comfort or indicate that they'd like a refresher. Administrators working with a group of educators should identify the most commonly cited indicators in which educators express a need for greater comfort or capability, and ensure that those topics are prioritized when creating a professional development plan.

In the absence of coordinated professional development opportunities, individual educators can use this tool to assess their own comfort and competencies and seek out resources such as webinars and online training courses.

## **Assessment Tool**

EDUCATOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE:			
Domain 1	Context for Comprehe		
Understanding the positive impact that maintain enthusiasm. Before taking on o that govern sex education in their state	classroom instruction, educato		
Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>1.1</b> - Describe three health (physical, social, and/or emotional) and/or academic benefits of sex education for young people.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>1.2</b> - Describe state and/or district laws, policies and standards that relate to sex education where one teaches.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
A safe learning environment allows stucto sex education. To create such an enviconscious biases, and	lents to explore and articulate ronment, educators need to e	their beliefs, values, and liv xamine their own personal	ed experiences relevant
Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>2.1.1</b> - Explain the difference between personal and universal values relating to sexuality.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.1.2</b> - Describe how verbal and nonverbal expression of personal values, and comfort with topics related to sex education, could impact one's teaching.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.1.3</b> - Explain the importance of educators refraining from sharing their personal values when implementing sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>2.1.4</b> - Demonstrate the ability to respond effectively to students' values-based comments and questions.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.2.1</b> - Define conscious and unconscious bias and explain how they could influence one's teaching of sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.2.2</b> - Describe three impacts that conscious and unconscious bias could have on cross-cultural interactions when teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.2.3</b> - Explain how an educator's personal beliefs about racial and reproductive justice could influence their teaching of sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.2.4</b> - Describe three strategies to reduce the impact of conscious and unconscious bias and enhance crosscultural interactions in the classroom when teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.3.1</b> - Describe the importance of teachers' maintaining professional boundaries when teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.3.2</b> - List three factors to consider regarding personal disclosure when teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.3.3</b> - Demonstrate how to reduce the impact of educators' passive and/ or active personal disclosure on the educational environment.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.3.4</b> - Explain the roles and responsibilities of a mandated reporter.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>2.3.5</b> - Explain the state- and district-mandated reporting requirements and procedures.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

# Domain 3: Best Practices for Sex Education

Being familiar with the best practices in the field of sex education can help educators handle potentially sensitive topics, foster an engaging learning environment, choose the most effective teaching strategies for each group, and answer even the most challenging questions.

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>3.1.1</b> - Define racism (including individual, interpersonal, institutional, ideological, structural, and systemic), racial micro-aggressions, and reproductive justice.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.1.2</b> - Name three sexual health inequities and some of their systemic causes.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.1.3</b> - Describe three ways power, privilege, prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes related to age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, immigration status, and/or physical or intellectual ability can impact sexual health and reproductive justice.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.1.4</b> - Describe three effective response strategies when a student or school community member has been hurt or wronged by bias.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.1.5</b> - Describe three strategies educators can use to acknowledge and proactively work to mitigate the impact of bias on their students' sexual health and multiple, intersecting identities.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.2.1</b> - Demonstrate three techniques to create an inclusive and affirming learning environment.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.2.2</b> - Demonstrate three strategies for creating culturally responsive classrooms.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.2.3</b> - Describe three elements of a trauma-informed approach to sexual health education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>3.2.4</b> - Demonstrate three strategies of a trauma-informed approach to sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.1</b> - Demonstrate the ability to build rapport with students.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.2</b> - Demonstrate three student- centered instructional approaches that support a variety of learning styles.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.3</b> - Explain the differences between positive vs. shaming approaches to teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.4</b> - Demonstrate how to use the experiential learning cycle when teaching.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.5</b> - Describe three effective strategies for practicing skills with students.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.6</b> - Describe three strategies for actively involving parents, caregivers, and other trusted adults in a sex education program.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.3.7</b> - Demonstrate the ability to analyze and tailor lesson plans to match the age, developmental stages, cultural backgrounds, and other identities of students.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.4.1</b> - Explain three reasons why it is important to respond to every question students ask when teaching sex education.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>3.4.2</b> - Demonstrate the ability to effectively answer three different types of challenging questions.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

# Domain 4: Key Content Areas

Knowing the facts about all of the topics covered in sex education is an essential part of being an effective teacher. Educators must have extensive and current knowledge of the core content found in the *National Sex Education Standards*.

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.1.1</b> - Describe three distinguishing characteristics between healthy and unhealthy relationships, involving family, friends, and/or romantic partners.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.1.2</b> - Explain three ways that healthy relationships can positively impact personal well-being.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.1.3</b> - Describe three strategies for teaching students communication skills.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.1.4</b> - Describe three strategies for incorporating the positive and negative impacts of communicating through technology into lessons on healthy relationships.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.1.5</b> - Describe three ways to help students set and respect personal boundaries in relationships.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.1</b> - Define consent.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.2</b> - Explain why consent is a fundamental right for people of all ages.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.3</b> - Differentiate between situations in which sexual consent is and is not present.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.4</b> - Identify three youth-friendly resources to assist survivors of sexual assault, abuse, incest or domestic violence.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.2.5</b> - Explain sex trafficking and the state laws related to it.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.6</b> - Explain bodily autonomy and how it relates to consent and sexual abuse prevention.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.7</b> - Explain the impact of childhood trauma on decision making and the sexual health of students.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.8</b> - Demonstrate three strategies to prevent and/or intervene in bullying and teasing.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.2.9</b> - Describe three strategies to help students identify a trusted adult.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.1</b> - Explain how availability of supportive school staff, presence of Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), gender-inclusive curricular resources, and the presence of comprehensive enumerated anti-harassment school policies are related to improved school climate for students of all sexual orientations.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.2</b> - Define sexual orientation and sexual identity, including that everyone has both.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.3</b> - Explain the difference between sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and sexual identity.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.4</b> - Demonstrate the use of inclusive and affirming language.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.3.5</b> - Demonstrate the ability to intervene effectively in homophobic and other bullying comments and actions.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.6</b> - Explain three ways that LGBQ+ youth are at disproportionate risk for health disparities.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.7</b> - Identify three credible, medically accurate, youth-friendly resources that can provide information or support related to sexual orientation.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.8</b> - Explain why it is essential to include positive portrayals of LGBQ+ people in lessons.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.3.9</b> - Demonstrate three strategies that can be used to include positive portrayals of LGBQ+ youth in lessons.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.1</b> - Explain how availability of supportive school staff, presence of Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), gender-inclusive curricular resources, and the presence of comprehensive enumerated anti-harassment school policies are related to improved school climate for students of all gender identities.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.2</b> - Demonstrate the use of inclusive and affirming language.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.3</b> - Define gender identity and sex assigned at birth.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.4</b> - Explain how gender identity and gender expression are distinct from each other and from sexual orientation.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.4.5</b> - Demonstrate the ability to intervene effectively in transphobic, sexist, misogynistic, and other gender-related bullying comments or actions.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.6</b> - Explain three ways that transgender and gender expansive youth are at disproportionate risk for health disparities.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.7</b> - Identify three credible, medically accurate, youth-friendly resources for information and support related to transgender and gender expansive people.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.8</b> - Explain why it is essential to include positive portrayals of transgender and gender expansive people in lessons.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.4.9</b> - Demonstrate at three strategies that can be used to make lessons affirming for transgender and gender expansive people.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.5.1</b> - Describe how puberty prepares the human body for the potential to reproduce.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.5.2</b> - List three physical, three social, and three emotional changes that occur during puberty.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.5.3</b> - Identify three practices that students can adopt for maintaining healthy habits during puberty.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.6.1</b> - Explain the benefits of teaching young children the medically accurate terms for genitals.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.6.2</b> - Demonstrate the ability to use medically accurate terms for sexual and reproductive anatomy, including all external genitals.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.6.3</b> - Explain the function of the individual sexual and reproductive body parts and how they typically work.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.6.4</b> - Explain the stages of the human sexual response cycle.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.1</b> - Explain fertilization, implantation, conception, and how pregnancy occurs.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.2</b> - Demonstrate the steps necessary for effective external and internal condom use and how to access condoms.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.3</b> - Describe the differences in mechanisms of action and access between emergency contraception and the abortion pill.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.4</b> - Explain methods of contraception, including the latest medical advances that are popular among young people.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.5</b> - Describe pregnancy options, including parenting, adoption, and abortion.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.7.6</b> - Identify three federal and/or state laws that impact young peoples' access to effective reproductive and sexual health care.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.1</b> - Describe HIV and three common STDs/STIs, and how each can and cannot be transmitted.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.2</b> - Explain that many STD/STIs do not cause symptoms and the only way to know if you have one is to be tested.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No

Indicator	How would you rate your CAPABILITY to do this?	What is your COMFORT level in doing this?	Do you need a refresher in this area?
<b>4.8.3</b> - Explain the benefit of getting tested and treated for HIV and other STDs/STIs.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.4</b> - Explain three facilitators and three barriers to STD/STI testing and treatment.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.5</b> - Demonstrate the steps necessary for effective external and internal condom use, and explain how to access condoms.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.6</b> - Describe the latest medical advances in HIV and other STDs/STIs prevention and treatment.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No
<b>4.8.7</b> - Identify three medically accurate, youth-friendly resources for STD/STI and HIV prevention, testing, and treatment.	High Moderate Low	High Moderate Low	Yes No