

TALKING POINTS FOR PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

What must be Deleted or Changed in Kathleen Wynne's controversial sex ed curriculum

Downplaying HIV infection (Grade 7 lesson)

The Wynne/Levin sex curriculum was grossly irresponsible in how it handled discussion of HIV/AIDS. It actually downplayed the seriousness of contracting HIV, potentially leaving the impression with students that it's not really that big a deal.

A [section on HIV and AIDS](#) seems to have an undertone of making it acceptable and normal for individuals who are HIV positive to continue having sex with others. It speaks of HIV-infected people being able to live a "near-to-normal lifespan" with antiretroviral drugs. It also suggests that "one of the best things you can do to stop HIV is to stop the stigma associated with having the infection". Really? That's not even scientific.

Of course this is not science-based teaching. It's political and social engineering. It was irresponsible and literally put children's lives at risk by presenting a scientifically inaccurate picture of infection with HIV and AIDS.

The fact is that people living with HIV are having to take up to \$20,000 worth of powerful drug cocktails per year, for the rest of their lives. That is not a pleasant existence, and often, it is not without multiple hospitalizations. Although life can be prolonged with anti-HIV drugs, there is no cure. It is still a uniformly fatal disease.

The Wynne/Levin curriculum also hides the fact that a new "super bug" strain of HIV is spreading that is [treatment-resistant](#) to antiretroviral drugs. [Epidemiologists](#) are worried that this strain's prevalence may continue to increase, and one day, render HIV completely untreatable, thus taking away the ability to prolong life for HIV-infected patients.

If the sex ed curriculum in elementary schools is going to present information on Sexually-Transmitted Infections at all, kids must receive an honest, fact-based presentation about HIV/AIDS. It must not be downplayed to advance some kind of sexual liberation agenda just so that HIV-infected persons can continue to have all the sex they want, free of stigma.