



California Healthy Youth Act

Greater Accountability Would Help Ensure That Districts Comply With All Aspects of the Law

Background

Since 2016, the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) has required school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education to all students in grades 7 through 12. Through CHYA, the State aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancy and to have healthy, positive, and safe relationships. To accomplish these goals, CHYA establishes the topics districts must include in their instruction. In general, districts have adopted instructional materials for the purpose of addressing these topics. The Joint Legislative Audit Committee directed us to review how school districts have implemented CHYA and the degree to which they comply with CHYA's requirements. We conducted an audit of Long Beach Unified, Rocklin Unified, Sonoma Valley Unified, and Tulare Joint Union High School districts.

Key Findings

- The instructional materials we reviewed complied with about 70 percent to 90 percent of CHYA's content requirements.
 - All districts we reviewed included required information about the nature of HIV and other STIs and provided students with knowledge and skills for making and implementing healthy decisions about sexuality.
 - Districts commonly did not include required information related to human trafficking, health resources for students, sexual and relationship violence, and menstrual health.
 - Teachers at some of these districts modified their instructional materials, in some cases increasing the risk of noncompliance with CHYA.
- Only Long Beach Unified provided its teachers with training related to CHYA. However, none of the districts we reviewed fully complied with CHYA's teacher training requirements.
- The districts did comply with CHYA's requirements to notify parents about instruction, as well as their rights to review instructional materials and opt students out of CHYA instruction.
- The California Department of Education (CDE) is not required to monitor districts' compliance with CHYA or publish guidance about instructional materials to help inform districts' choices about which materials to use.

Key Recommendations

- To improve compliance with CHYA, each district should perform a detailed review of CHYA's requirements and amend or supplement its instructional materials so that they address all required topics.
- Districts that have not provided teachers with training should adopt policies and procedures that define the frequency and content of training for teachers who provide CHYA instruction. The defined frequency should ensure that teachers receive timely training on the most recent, medically accurate information and that no teacher provides CHYA instruction without first having received that training.
- The Legislature should consider requiring CDE to perform monitoring reviews of CHYA compliance and to publish guidance to assist school districts.

Districts' Instructional Materials Did Not Comply With All of CHYA's Content Requirements

