

Choosing a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Curriculum

TIP SHEET | June 7, 2022

Much intentionality is required when researching SRAE curricula to implement. It is vitally important that chosen curriculum is medically accurate and age-appropriate and, if the curriculum is funded by SRAE state or federal funding, it must adequately address *each* required topic (A-F) listed in the grant guidance. Curriculum should include information about the skills needed to avoid risk and achieve optimal sexual health, and curriculum authors should be able to provide evidence of effectiveness (evidence-based/evidence-informed).¹

Create a community snapshot

Prior to choosing a curriculum it is important to understand the community in which you want to implement programming.

- What are current teen unintended pregnancy and STI/STD rates in the community?
- What is the data concerning other high-risk teen behaviors that influence the teen sexual activity rates?
- Investigate whether any curricula are currently presented and at what grade levels.
- Identify needs or gaps in sex education instruction.

Investigate curriculum

- Search the websites of SRAE curricula providers and contact the publisher.
 - Ask the curriculum author questions regarding core concepts to make sure the curriculum aligns with the needs/expectation of your SRAE approach.
 - Ask for copies of sample scripts, lesson plans, and supplemental materials.
 - Inquire whether they have completed curriculum certification training and other related SRA certifications that enhance professionalism.

- Verify curriculum is designed for multiple grade levels in the event you want to expand programming to additional age groups.
- Crosswalk the curriculum to studies showing best SRAE outcomes.
 - *Recommended resource:* [The Center for Relationship Education's SMARTool](#) can help guide assessment of SRAE curricula.
- Scrutinize the curriculum for congruence with the [New K-12 Standards for Optimal Sexual Development](#).
- Assess whether the program is a good fit for the community and complies with the state educational requirements and state laws for sex education.

More Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Implementation Tip Sheets:

[Tip Sheet: How to Implement Effective SRAE Programming](#)

[Tip Sheet: Important Facts About SRAE](#)

[Tip Sheet: Creating a Healthy Organizational Culture to Support Your SRAE Program](#)

[Tip Sheet: Considerations for Implementing an SRAE Program at the Local Level](#)

[Tip Sheet: Cost Considerations of Implementing an SRAE Program](#)

[Tip Sheet: Sample Job Descriptions for SRAE Administrators and Presenters](#)

[Tip Sheet: How to Interview Candidates for the SRAE Presenter Role](#)

[Tip Sheet: Qualities of a Successful SRAE Presenter](#)

[Tip Sheet: Finding Effective SRAE Presenters](#)

[Tip Sheet: Training and Retaining SRAE Presenters](#)

[Tip Sheet: Enhancing Your Relationship with the SRAE Program Host](#)

[Tip Sheet: Getting Your SRAE Program into Schools](#)

References

¹ Ascend. (2019). Authentic SRA Curricula. Ascend.org. Retrieved September 15, 2021, from <https://weascend.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Authentic-SRA-Curricula-19-.pdf>.

By Ascend under contract with Public Strategies. (2021) [SRAE Quick Tip Guide] Public Strategies, Oklahoma City, OK.