

# Sex Ed in the Obama Years: Moving toward a New Paradigm

City MatCH 2009  
New Orleans, LA

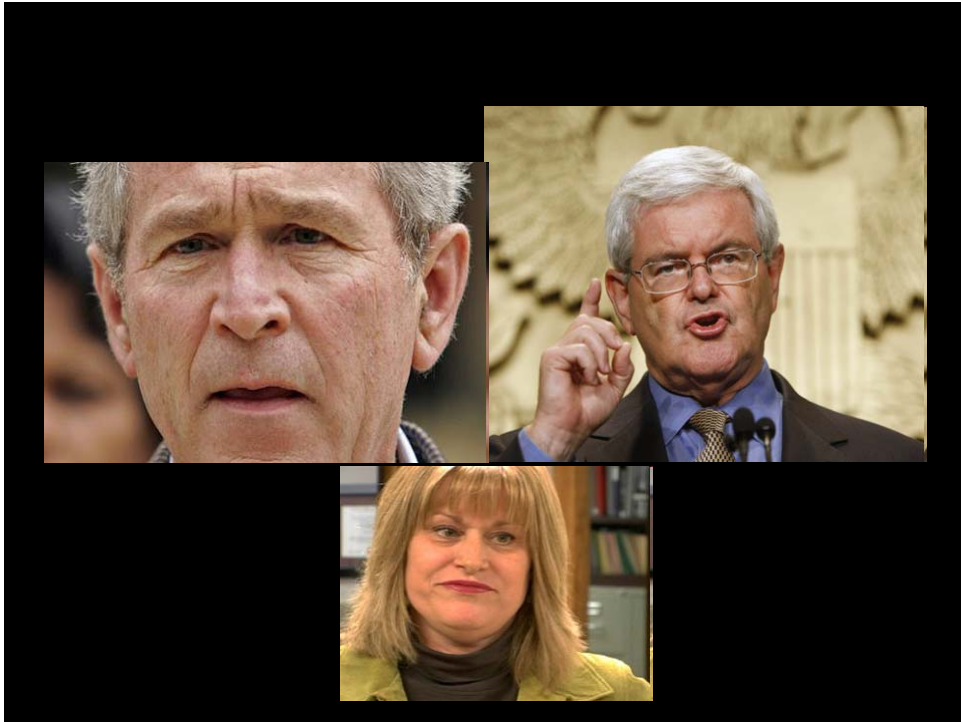
Lisa Richardson, Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies  
and  
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Brutal Details Outlined in Chris Brown's Alleged Assault on Rihanna

thestar.com  
Is South African runner a he or a she?

Innocence the new rebellion

'Pregnancy Pact' Moms Mocked In July 4th Parade



Don't be sorry,  
be Abstinent

Talking is safer than sex

Men are like microwaves  
Women are like crock pots

KEITH DELTANO  
comedy

A hand-drawn poster with colorful, bubbly text that reads "Don't be sorry, be Abstinent". Below the text is a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman. The man says "I'm in a hurry" and the woman says "I'm a graduate of sex school". Below the poster is a slide titled "Sexually Speaking" with icons of a microwave and a crock pot. To the right is a photo of Keith Deltano performing comedy.

Reuters: Comprehensive sex ed may cut teen pregnancies

The Guardian: George Bush's sex education failure

### CBS News: Sex Education Works, Study Shows

WashPost: Sex Ed Does Delay Teen Sex: CDC





## Why Teen Parenthood Is Risky

Teen parenthood is risky. In Chapter 5, you learned that one cause of faulty thinking is denying facts. Here are some undeniable facts.

### Babies Born to Teen Parents

- often do not receive adequate nourishment
- often do not receive adequate prenatal care
- risk being born prematurely and having a low birth weight
- are more likely to be abused or neglected by their parents
- are less likely to have adequate medical and dental care as children

### Teen Fathers

- may have to pay child support and be financially stressed
- are more likely to drop out of school because they must get a job
- are less likely to meet their career goals
- are more likely to neglect or abuse their children

Being a teen parent is a "24 hour a day job...you don't have friends, you can't go out,"

Teens think of a baby as "an accessory on their hip"

"Vow: Not Now."

*SIECUS affirms that sexuality is a fundamental part of being human, one that is worthy of dignity and respect. We advocate for the right of all people to accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality, and sexual health services. SIECUS works to create a world that ensures social justice and sexual rights.*

# Sex Education in the Obama Years

State Policy in Louisiana

Presented by  
Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies  
[www.iwesnola.org](http://www.iwesnola.org)

## MCH in Louisiana

- LA has ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in measures of child well-being for a decade, with among the highest rates of:
  - 1) Low birth weight babies
  - 2) Infant mortality
  - 3) Teen deaths
  - 4) Children with unemployed parents
- LA has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest poverty rate in the country

## The State Landscape

In Louisiana Sex Education is:

- Not required in public schools
- “Permitted” after the 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Must be integrated into an existing course (i.e. biology, science, physical education, hygiene, etc.)
- Must include “parenthood education” in home economics & “adoption awareness” in any health education course

## Limitations on Sex Education

In Louisiana Sex Education can not:

- Include “explicit materials depicting male or female homosexuality”
- Include “religious beliefs, practices in human sexuality, or moral & ethical judgments...”
- In “any way counsel or advocate abortion”
- Be offered in K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade....except in Orleans Parish

## Governor's Program on Abstinence (GPA) Health Education Program

Was designed in the 1990's to:

- 1) Reduce out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies & STDs
- 2) Provide a statewide "grass roots program" to influence the behavior of youth, parents, health care providers and educators
- 3) Help change the culture of the state by promoting the "Abstinence-Only Message and the Authentic Abstinence Lifestyle through education, support, and reinforcement"

## The Legacy of GPA

This health education program has been sued by the ACLU for:

- Violating the separation of church & state (2002)
- Charged with violation of the Constitution(2004):
  - 1) Use of funds for materials that include religious messages
  - 2) Public Education activities or events that promote or advance religion



## Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies: Educating Youth about Sex

Our approach:

- Positive youth development & human sexuality
- Sexuality in the context of well-being
- Intergenerational dialogue about sexual health
  - 1) HIV Transmission & Risk Behavior
  - 2) Healthy Relationships
  - 3) Decision-making
  - 4) Sexuality & Sexual Identity
  - 5) Media Literacy