

Parent Information



Supporting Health Through a Comprehensive Sexuality Education Program

As part of the Lawrence school district's comprehensive sexuality education program and ongoing partnership with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Lawrence Board of Education has partnered with LDCHD to make condoms available to students in the health offices at Free State and Lawrence High Schools.

Why give high school students access to condoms at school?

Almost half of high school students report engaging in sexual activity. Consistent and correct condom use can help decrease risks of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The Institute of Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Medical Association have all adopted policies recommending that condoms be made available to adolescents as part of comprehensive school health programs.

Won't making condoms available at school encourage sexual activity among teens?

Improving access to condoms increases condom use. Multiple studies show it does not increase sexual activity.

Doesn't making condoms available at school send a mixed message to teens?

It's important for families to communicate with their teens about their own values and expectations about abstinence and sexuality. Talking about these topics helps your teen make healthy decisions. Many teens choose to be sexually active, and having access to condoms helps mitigate some of the health risks.

Won't condom accessibility at school signal teens that sex isn't risky?

No. In fact, when condom access is part of a comprehensive sexuality education program, studies have shown that rates of sexual activity tend to decrease as teens more critically contemplate sexual decisions.

Won't teens just make balloons out of the condoms?

Increased familiarity with condoms increases the likelihood teens will use them when engaging in sexual activity.

The LDCHD and USD 497 plan to offer informational sessions for parents who would like support in talking with their teens about sexuality education. Your school will share that invitation soon. Please visit www.ldchealth.org for more information about family planning and the use of condoms to prevent STDs/HIV. If you have questions about this partnership for adolescent health, please contact school board members, www.usd497.org/board, or the LDCHD, 785-843-3060.