



## Health Standards Talking Points for the *Faith Community*

### SUPPORTING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

- All people are sacred and valuable, and we support providing young people with effective health education so they have the tools and teachings they need to be whole, healthy and safe.
- When young people are affirmed and have safe spaces—homes, learning environments, faith communities—they have positive emotional well-being and can achieve academic success.
- Representation matters. We believe it is essential that young people see themselves and their peers in a healthy manner so that they can support one another and envision a bright future for themselves.
- Having affirmative spaces that honor all young people is life-saving and preventative education—from sexual violence, bullying, suicide, STIs and unintended pregnancy. It not only keeps young people alive, but it allows them to thrive.
- LGBTQ youth face higher risks than their peers, including bullying at school and higher rates of suicide attempts. By supporting inclusive health education, we are supporting all students' well-being.

### SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE HEALTH STANDARDS

- We must recognize young people as whole people and meet them where they are in order to fully support their well-being.
- Health education is most impactful when it includes information and examples that are inclusive of diverse cultures and identities, including gender, race, religion, age, ability and sexual orientation.
- Shaming and silencing anyone, especially young people, leads to negative health outcomes. We support open, honest and early conversations that are age appropriate.