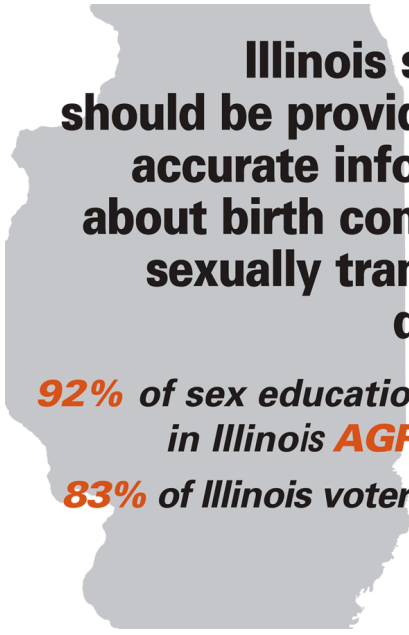


## Illinois Voter Opinion Poll Summary of Findings

The Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education, a joint project of the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health and Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area, commissioned the firm of Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates to conduct a statewide survey in December 2004 of 600 registered voters regarding their feelings about school-taught sex education programs.

**Illinois voters overwhelmingly agree – comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education programs are needed to inform our youth about the prevention of pregnancy and protection from diseases including HIV and STDs.**

- 83% agree that students in Illinois should have information about contraception and disease prevention, and that age-appropriate facts about pregnancy and STDs are an important part of all sex education programs.
- Nearly three quarters (73%) of Illinois voters prefer comprehensive sex education programs where abstinence is a component but is not the only method of protection and prevention discussed.
- Almost two thirds of voters (64%) say they oppose teaching abstinence-only sex education in Illinois schools.



**Illinois students should be provided with accurate information about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases.**

**92% of sex education teachers in Illinois AGREE**

**83% of Illinois voters AGREE**

**Voters in Illinois want accountability. There are currently no state standards and there is no set funding to teach sex education in Illinois schools.**

- 88% of voters agree that teachers in sex education programs should have to meet state standards and be held accountable for what their students learn, just like they do in other subjects like reading or math.
- A majority (55%) of voters think children and teens are not learning enough about sex education in public schools today.
- 73% of voters say they would be worried if they found out comprehensive sex education was not required in Illinois public schools.

**The public overwhelmingly supports responsible sex education in public schools. This support is consistent throughout the state – support is strong in rural and urban areas, as well as in Chicago, central, and southern Illinois.**