

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN EDUCATION

DID YOU KNOW?

All people living in South Africa have the right to education and the right to health, including receiving sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) education. SRHR rights allow people to make informed and meaningful decisions about their own sexual well-being.

Examples:

- Deciding whether, when, and with who to be sexually active
- Being taught about safe and unsafe sex
- Learning how to know if you have been sexually harassment or sexually assault
- Knowing where to go for help if you think you are pregnant or if you have questions about understanding a sexual experience
- Receiving support and information if you have HIV or other sexually transmissible infection (STI)
- Defining your own sexuality and gender expression



Policies and frameworks outline how SRHR should be implemented in schools. What do these policies say?

- 01 Learners should be taught sexual and reproductive health rights topics at school
- 02 Pregnant learners should be able to make decisions regarding their pregnancy
- 03 Schools must accommodate pregnant learners by helping them to catch up from school time missed
- 04 Learners may not be excluded or discriminated against at school based on actual or perceived HIV or STI status
- 05 Learners living with HIV and other STIs should have access to health and social services and that schools help them access these services

Poor access to SRHR services and SRHR education negatively affects learners, especially girl learners' educational outcomes and likelihood of attending or finishing school. We recommend that:

- Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) be rolled out nationally
- There are more lessons on gender-based violence worked into the CSE and Life Orientation curriculum
- Teachers are trained to give comprehensive and scientifically accurate information about
- HIV, STIs, TB, and pregnancy in a non-judgmental way
- Learners who cannot afford sanitary products should be provided with these products to prevent them from missing school