The political discourse surrounding sex education in U.S. public schools has continued to be a topic rife with controversy. Despite the fact that 93% of Americans have voiced their approval for sex education programs at the secondary school level, agreement on how these curriculums should be enforced remains a point of contention (Future of Sex Education Initiative, 2010).

The two most common strategies are Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) and Abstinence Education.

Florida public schools have adopted an “abstinence-only” approach to sex education (Clark, 2016). However, many opponents are questioning whether Florida’s current standard of sex education is addressing the rising societal problems affecting its youth populations (Clark, 2016).

The policy should be effective at reducing incidences of risk-seeking sexual behaviors. The policy will take into consideration the needs and wants of its target population. The policy is economically feasible.

The policy is economically feasible.

Introductions/Problem Statement

- The policy is economically feasible.

Evaluative Criteria

- The policy should be effective at reducing risk-seeking sexual behaviors.
- The policy will take into consideration the needs and wants of its target population.
- The policy is economically feasible.

Policy Alternatives

- Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) programs centered on medically factual information and discussions surrounding consent, positive relationships, contraception, human development, desire, as well as reproduction rights.
- Age-appropriate CSE lessons adaptable for elementary and secondary school.
- CSE curriculums which are LGBT inclusive and address students’ diverse experiences regarding race, disability, religion, culture, sexuality, etc.

Analysis of Policy Alternatives

1. **The policy should be effective at reducing incidences of risk-seeking sexual behaviors.**
   - CSE recipients between the ages of 15 - 19 were less likely to become sexually active, pregnant, or acquire an STD when compared to their abstinence-only counterparts (Kohler, Manhart, & Lafferty (2007).

2. **The policy will take into consideration the needs and wants of its target population.**
   - 90% of Florida voters agreed that sex education should be offered in public schools, while just 8% stated that sex education should be restricted to an abstinence-only model (Winchester, 2008).
   - Only 14% of parents in the U.S. support sex education being taught at the elementary school level (Blanton, 2009), while just 12 states explicitly include lessons that address sexual orientation and student diversity (Temblador, 2015).

3. **The policy is economically feasible.**
   - Two federal programs (initiated by Obama in 2010) support CSE instruction throughout the United States: The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) and the Personal Responsibility & Education Program (PREP) (Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States, 2011).
   - These initiatives provided roughly $185 million in national funding for CSE programs in 2011, a notable amount when compared to the $176 million allocated to abstinence-only programs in 2008 (Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States, 2011).