



What You Should Know About Sexual Orientation of Youth

- Homosexuality is not a genetically-determined, unchangeable trait.
- Homosexual attraction is determined by a combination of familial, environmental, social and biological influences. Inheritance of predisposing personality traits may play a role for some. Consequently, homosexual attraction is changeable.
- Most students (over 85%) with same-sex attractions will ultimately adopt a heterosexual orientation if not otherwise encouraged. Most questioning students are experiencing temporary sexual confusion or are involved in experimentation.
- The homosexual lifestyle, especially for males, carries grave health risks.
- Declaring and validating a student's same-sex attraction during the adolescent years is premature and may be personally harmful.
- Sexual reorientation therapy has proven effective for those with unwanted homosexual attractions.
- For many youth, homosexual attraction develops due to negative or traumatic experiences, such as sexual abuse. These students need therapy for the trauma, not affirmation of a "gay identity."
- There is no evidence that pro-homosexual programs, such as on-campus student clubs, ease the health risks or emotional disorders suffered by homosexuals.
- Regardless of an individual's sexual *orientation*, sexual *activity* is a conscious choice.
- It is in the best interest of all students to refrain from any sexual activity until adulthood; most optimally until they enter a life-long faithful marriage.
- The school's responsibility is to provide a safe environment for respectful self-expression for all students. It is not the school's role to diagnose and attempt to treat any student's medical condition, and certainly not the school's role to "affirm" a student's perceived personal sexual orientation.

FACTS
About
Youth

For further explanation of these important points and for the supporting references visit **www.FactsAboutYouth.com**, a Web resource created by the American College of Pediatricians® in coalition with other organizations who share a concern for the well-being of all youth.