EyesOpenIowa Overview

EOI Mission
The mission of EyesOpenIowa (EOI) is to empower Iowa’s communities to provide young people with comprehensive sexual health information and services to make healthy and informed decisions about sex and relationships, both now and in the future.

EOI envisions a time when all of Iowa’s young people are knowledgeable about, empowered, and prepared to take control of their own sexual health throughout their lifetimes. We envision a time when schools and local youth-serving agencies fully and accurately educate young people on anatomy, reproduction, preventing pregnancy and STDs, healthy relationships, and consent, just as they would other topics.

State Lead Agency
EyesOpenIowa is designated by Advocates for Youth as the State Lead Agency in Iowa for Teen Pregnancy Prevention. EyesOpenIowa also works collaboratively with the national sex education leaders and serves on an advisory panel for comprehensive sex education standards and best practices.

EOI Commitment to Excellence
EyesOpenIowa invites all providers of sexual health education in Iowa to voluntarily commit to the following:

ACCURACY
Sexual health education will be factual, medically accurate, and informed by the weight of available peer-reviewed research.

ACCOUNTABILITY
Providers will voluntarily adhere to a basic set of science-based standards including instruction that is non-shaming and trauma informed and be willing to accept a periodic peer review of practices and program content.

AFFIRMATION
Sexual health education will affirm sexuality as a natural lifelong quality of being human which can be expressed in healthy, responsible ways.

ADVOCACY
Providers will actively advocate for:

Abstinence first from any form of risky sexual activity,

Age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education for all,

Access and referral to reproductive health care and services for sexually active youth, and the efficacy of contraception and condoms in reducing the risk of pregnancy and STI/HIV infection.
Certification Purpose

The establishment of standards and a system of voluntary professional certification assures the development of skills, continued growth and ethical practice among Iowa professionals teaching sexual health education. EOI’s Sexual Health Education Certification aligns with the *National Teacher Preparation Standards for Sexuality Education* created by Future of Sex Education Initiative ([FoSE](#)).

The purpose of this certification process is:

1. To demonstrate professionalism, knowledge and comfort when teaching sexual health education.
2. To promote respect for individuals, families and cultures when teaching sexual health education.
3. To provide education in a manner that is age-appropriate, medically accurate, inclusive and factual.
4. To establish a basic set of ethical practices for sexual health educators.
5. To promote delivery of material that aligns with the Iowa Human Growth and Development Mandate.
6. To implement effective teaching strategies and techniques when teaching sexual health education.
7. To acquire skills to assess students’ knowledge in order to refine sexual health education.

General Information

**How to Obtain Initial Certification:**

Certification will be acquired through reaching the EyesOpenIowa Certification requirements. Initial certification is effective for a two-year period from date of issuance.

**Certification Requirements:**

**A. Experience**

Applicants must document 100 hours of experience working with youth (classroom, one-on-one, small group, counseling, facilitation). Applicants may complete 100 hours of experience while pursuing their certification.

Applicants must also provide a professional resume.

**B. Professional Development**

It is the professional responsibility of sexuality educators to practice ethical behavior and continue to attain knowledge through a variety of professional development opportunities.

A minimum of thirty-two (32) clock hours will be required for initial certification including the following required courses:
• Awkward to Awesome aka Sex Ed Boot Camp (14 clock hours)
• HIV/AIDS/STDS (7 clock hours)
• Puberty/Reproductive Anatomy/Contraception (7 clock hours)
• Four (4) clock hours of additional EOI-approved trainings of applicant choosing.

Previous training experience: If you already attended an EOI training you think aligns with the requirements above within the last two years from date of application, please provide EOI with a copy of your training certificate, along with name of trainer(s), date(s) and location. EOI will then determine if this class can be substituted. Providing this information does not guarantee the class will be accepted as a replacement.

C. Education
• Bachelor’s Degree or higher, or
• Associates of Arts Degree and an additional 35 clock hours of Sexual Health Education training (approved by EOI).

How to Apply:
A. Application: Applicants must submit a Certified Sexual Health Educator application from EOI by visiting www.EyesOpenIowa.org.

B. Attend all required trainings: Applicants must attend all required trainings in their entirety (no exceptions). Trainings can be in-person or online. EOI training opportunities can be viewed online at www.EyesOpenIowa.org.

C. Request Certificate: Once all trainings are completed, please notify EOI at info@eyesopeniowa.org of your status. After notification, EOI will review your status (including training hours). If all requirements have been met with satisfaction, EOI will notify via email of your status and mail you a copy of your certificate.

EOI has the right to refuse certification to any individual who does not meet the standards of a Certified Sexual Health Educator; a letter will be sent to the individual with notification of this decision.

D. Certification Period: The certification period encompasses two calendar years, commencing from the first day of the month which follows the initial certification. Dates of validation will be clearly printed on the sexual health educator’s certificate.

Applicants have one year from application date to complete all required trainings.

E. Fee: Certification fee is required at the time of application and is for certification only. Class fees are additional. Please see schedule of fees to determine certification fee.

Payment plans are available but must be fulfilled before certification is issued.
How to Recertify:

To maintain certification, sexual health educators must apply for recertification every two years after the initial certification period. (Example: Initial certification: January 1st, 2014, recertification January 1st, 2016, 2nd recertification January 1st, 2018).

An application for recertification should include:

A. Complete an “Application for Recertification Form”, which can be accessed at eyesopeniowa.org

B. Complete thirty-two (32) clock hours of additional trainings approved by EyesOpenIowa. These trainings may be a mix of in-person and online course work as well as conference workshops and virtual roundtables. The cost of recertification trainings will be the responsibility of the applicant. All trainings must be approved by EOI to count toward continue education hours and documented on “Application for Recertification Form.”

*It is the responsibility of the applicant to track course hours and provide documentation.*

C. A fee of $150 is required at the time of recertification and is due no later than 30 days after certification expires.

Denial of Certification

Certification is on a voluntary basis and EOI reserves the right to deny certification to any individual who does not meet educational, professional, or ethical standards.

Participants may appeal denial of certification by sending a written request for an appeal review meeting within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of denial. The response shall be addressed to:

EyesOpenIowa
Attn: Eyes Open Academy
4000 Westown Parkway, Ste. 204
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

An appeal meeting shall be held at a time and place mutually agreed upon by EOI and the applicant. This appeal meeting will be facilitated by EOI staff and closed to the public. If an applicant has requested an appeal meeting, and upon whom proper notice of the meeting has been served, fails to appear for the meeting, EOI will continue with the review and the applicant will be bound by the results to the same extent if the applicant had been present.

Schedule of fees

**Initial Certification Fee** (2 years, cost of classes are additional) - $1,000

**Recertification** (2 years, cost of classes are additional) - $150
Replacement Certificate - $25

In-Person Trainings

• Awkward to Awesome - $450
• Puberty/Reproductive Anatomy/Contraception + HIV/AIDS/STDs - $375
• EyesOpenIowa Annual Conference - $249* (2018 rate, subject to change annually)

Eyes Open Academy (online training school)

• Curriculum Overviews - $199
• Essential Skills - $199
• 1-Hour Online Course - $45
• 1-2 Hour Online Course - $70

*prices subject to change. Grant funding fluctuates but often scholarships for classes may be available. If you are in need, please check with EyesOpenIowa.

Training Menu

For the most up-to-date list of trainings please visit our website www.EyesOpenIowa.org.

Awkward to Awesome (14 clock hours) - This high intensity two-day training is full of engaging activities and discussion around various sexual health topics. This training will help lay the building blocks for new educators and is a great refresher for those already in the field. This training will heighten the comfort level of adults teaching sexual health including; values clarification, boundaries, ethics, answering sensitive questions, facilitation including role plays, and creating a safe space for LGBTQ youth to name a few. Participants will leave this training feeling confident and “awesome” about teaching such an important topic to adolescents!

HIV/AIDS/STDs (7 clock hours) - This engaging training will help participants increase their knowledge of the basics of HIV, AIDS and STDs. Participants will learn about the history of these diseases, testing, treatment and prevention. The most up-to-date research will be shared with participants along with tools to relay these messages to adolescents.

Puberty/Reproductive Anatomy/Contraception (7 clock hours) - This dynamic training is a fun way to learn about puberty, reproductive anatomy and contraception. Participants will learn how to teach these topics to youth by engaging in numerous, easy to recreate activities. Participants will leave this training with not only a better understanding of the topic area, but also resources to use with youth.

Additional trainings:
Initial certification requires at least four (4) clock hours of EOI-approved trainings. Participants may choose to attend more than four hours at their own cost. Trainings are being consistently
added, please visit www.EyesOpenIowa.org for the most up-to-date list of trainings. Examples of topics covered include:

- Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs and Sexual Health
- Classroom Management and Session Planning
- Community Relationship Building
- Consent 101
- Healthy Relationships and Dating Violence
- How to Teach Puberty
- LGBTQ and Sexual Identity
- Managing Controversy
- Teaching Boys
- Teens and Technology
- The Adolescent Brain
- Working with Pregnant and Parenting Young People
- Working with Special Populations

EOI annual conference also counts towards recertification hours. Workshops and keynote credit hours are documented on conference materials.

To inquire if a training or class qualifies for credit, please email info@eyesopeniowa.org

**Training Policy:** EyesOpenIowa reserves the right to cancel a training or event if we do not reach the minimum number of participants to make the event viable by the registration closing date. In the event that we cancel a training, we will notify you using the email you used during registration and the training will be rescheduled or an equivalent training will replace it.

In the event of inclement weather, we will work to reschedule the training. If we must cancel due to weather, we will contact you via the information you provided on your registration form.

**Disclaimer**

EOI reserves the right to discontinue this certification process at any time in the event funding to subsidize this program is no longer available.

EOI reserves the right to alter or revise this handbook at any time without prior notice.
Application: Certified Sexual Health Educator

Application Date__________________________________________________________

Name (as you want it to appear on your certificate)______________________________________

Address________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Email______________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number________________________________________________________________________

Agency/School________________________________________________________________________

Job Title____________________________________________________________________________

Education:

School_____________________________________________________________________________

Degree_____________________________________________________________________________

Please attach:

• Professional Resume

• Documentation of 100 hours of experience working with youth (classroom, one-on-one, small group, counseling, facilitation, etc.). Please list experience, age group(s) worked with and contact person who can verify this experience.

• A copy of any training certificates with name of trainer(s), date(s) and location, for any trainings you believe may qualify for required trainings as listed in Certified Sexual Health Educator Handbook. Trainings must have been taken within two years of the date of this application.

• Please enclose certification fee.

Applications can be sent to EyesOpenIowa, Attn: Eyes Open Academy

4000 Westown Parkway, Ste 204
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Or

info@eyesopeniowa.org

Internal Use Only:

Date application received:_______________________________________________________

Date trainings completed:_______________________________________________________

Certification period:____________________________________________________________

Certification number:___________________________________________________________

Certification fee paid:___________________________________________________________
Certificated Sexual Health Educator

Application for Recertification

Date of Application_____________________________________________________________________

Name________________________________________________________________________________

Certification Number____________________________________________________________________

Certification Expiration__________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone________________________________________________________________________________

Email________________________________________________________________________________

Agency/School_________________________________________________________________________

Job Title______________________________________________________________________________

Professional Development Documentation:
The total number of professional development hours to be submitted must equal 32 clock hours and be
approved by EOI. Please submit a copy of all training certificates with trainer(s) name, date(s) and
location.

Recertification fee: A recertification fee of $150 must be included with this application for recertification.

Please send recertification application and all materials to

EyesOpenIowa, Attn: Eyes Open Academy
4000 Westown Parkway, Ste 204
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
or
info@eyesopeniowa.org

Internal Use Only:

Date recertification application received: _______________________________________________________________________

Recertification period: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Professional development hours completed: ___________________________________________________________________________

Recertification fee paid: ___________________________________________________________________________________________