

**Arizona Partners for Abstinence Education (APAE)
Mission Statement & Purpose**

Mission Statement:

We advocate improving the capacity of adolescents to make healthy choices by promoting the benefits of abstinence until marriage.

Purpose Statement:

1. To promote abstinence education that educates students about the benefits of abstinence and about the consequences of sexual activity in order to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease in Arizona.
2. To work to obtain stable funding for the Abstinence Until Marriage program. This may include the use of federal, state and private funds.
3. To promote the expansion of Abstinence Until Marriage education programs to all children and adolescents in Arizona.
4. To support the development and use of Abstinence Until Marriage curricula that is research based and teaches building self-esteem, developing values/character traits, formulating goals, making decisions, avoiding risky behavior, maximizing communication, strengthening relationships, understanding development, anatomy and medically-accurate condom/contraception/contraception failure rates, preventing STDs, withstanding social and peer pressure, addressing consequences/self-control, resolving sexual conflicts, aspiring to marriage, and understanding parenthood.
5. To promote public awareness of the program activities, availability, and benefits of the Abstinence Until Marriage program through the media.
6. To participate in and promote the use of responsible research on the causes and consequences of teen sexual activity and teen pregnancy in Arizona, and to evaluate the impact of programs, including the Abstinence Until Marriage program.
7. To collaborate with other like-minded individuals and organizations to understand the health needs of children and adolescents and the role of Abstinence Until Marriage in meeting these needs.