

Guidance for Utilizing Guest Speakers

FLASH does not require the use of guest speakers, and the lessons are designed to be easy to use by a classroom teacher. However, some schools and teachers may choose to bring in guest speakers who are experts in sexual health education or who represent community resources. It is important to note that outside speakers are bound to the same laws and requirements as classroom teachers.

In order to ensure the best outcomes for students, guest speakers should utilize lessons and teaching methods aligned with current sexual health education research. Specifically, guest speakers should share medically accurate information and focus on building the same beliefs, attitudes and skills that are the focus of the FLASH curriculum.

FLASH strives to prevent STDs and teen pregnancy by teaching medically accurate information about birth control, condoms, pregnancy and STDs, including HIV; strengthening the belief that people can protect themselves from STDs and unintended pregnancy; promoting positive attitudes about abstinence, condoms and birth control; and developing refusal skills. FLASH works to prevent sexual violence by undoing gender stereotypes, particularly stereotypes about men that stress violence, control and sexual conquest; developing skills in recognizing consent or the lack thereof; and promoting peer norms that don't support acts of sexual violence.

Guest speakers should not present information, promote beliefs or attitudes, or teach skills that are in conflict with any of the above mentioned strategies. Doing so will weaken the effectiveness of FLASH and make it harder to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs and sexual violence. Finally, guest speakers should avoid outdated and non-evidence-based practices, such as using scare tactics, stressing gender differences, disparaging condoms and other contraceptives, perpetuating stereotypes, and shaming or belittling students.