



**UNDERSTANDING & USING
POLICY SUPPORTS TO
ADVANCE, IMPROVE AND
SUSTAIN SEX ED**

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10.7.16



OBJECTIVES

- Identify the role of policy in implementing and sustaining sex education
- Discuss various policy supports
- Identify next steps



WHY POLICY MATTERS

- Meets a critical need
- Provides direction, promotes consistency
- Mitigates potential for controversy
- Ensures accountability and shared understanding



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, AT A MINIMUM

- Your state law
- Your state standards
- Your school district policy




SIECUS State Profiles Fiscal Year 2015


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EXAMPLE: NEW YORK

- **Health education is required in grades K-12**
 - **Must include accurate, age-appropriate, information about AIDS**
 - **Stress abstinence**
 - **Be consistent with community values**
 - **Requires training and/or certification**
 - **Requires an advisory council**
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EXAMPLE: OREGON

- **Require K-12 health education; including human sexuality and HIV prevention education**
 - **SHAC/sexual health plan**
 - **Require one unit of health for graduation**
 - **Stress abstinence ++**
 - **Students in grades 6-8, 1 time per year; 9-12, 2 times per year**
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DISTRICT POLICY







PIT STOP: A LOOK AT POLICY SUPPORTS




PARENTAL RIGHTS AND INVOLVEMENT


- Notification & Consent
- Parents can also participate in:
 - curriculum review
 - SHAC
 - Homework assignments
 - Parent-child communication workshop, etc.

CURRICULUM REVIEW AND MATERIALS REVIEW


When it happens:

- new/updated state law
 - regularly scheduled curriculum review
 - specific identified need
 - alignment with new district plan
 - NEVER/RARELY
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OTHER POLICY SUPPORTS

- **Medical Accuracy/Bias Free**
 - **Instructional Minutes**
 - **Single Sex Classroom Instruction**
 - **Professional Development**
 - **External Organizations and Agencies**
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LITTLE “P” POLICY SUPPORTS

- **Scope and Sequence**
 - **Curriculum**
 - **Implementation Timeline**
 - **Staff Roles and Responsibilities**
 - **Vetted Community Resources**
 - **Professional Development Requirements**
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NOW WHAT?



RESOURCES

Addressing Sexual Health in Schools Policy
Considerations, Advocates for Youth, 2013

WISE Toolkit at www.wisetoolkit.org



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