

Promoting Sex Education Justice



Quality sex education is necessary so all people have the information they need to make healthy decisions about sex, sexuality, reproduction, and health, while respecting themselves and honoring others. Many advocates use the term “comprehensive sexuality education” to describe a more just, medically accurate, positive vision of sex education. Some advocates for reproductive justice employ another vision – “sexuality education justice” – to describe what communities need

and want from sexuality education. Full and comprehensive information, while critical, does not go far enough to ensure that the people who are most marginalized and controlled may fully live their sexuality. To make progress, we must include comprehensive sexuality education within the more inclusive framework of reproductive justice.

OUR PLATFORM FOR TRANSFORMATION WILL URGE ALL STATES TO:

- Mandate comprehensive, culturally meaningful sexuality education curricula that honor all communities.
- Ensure language access for students with limited English proficiency and Deaf students.
- Enforce compliance with state laws that require comprehensive, inclusive sex education.
- Reform parental opt-out laws to ensure student access to sexuality education.
- Promote school-based reproductive health clinics that provide students with information, services, and referrals for reproductive and sexual health.

A community of Latina immigrant women in Eastern Washington discussing sex education noted that low-income parents need to work long hours and are not able to spend the time they would otherwise spend with their children having these conversations and addressing their needs when they arise. This in turn makes them dependent on public schools for this information. In some communities not only is there is no sex ed in the public schools, what is taught is culturally insensitive.



- Continue to advocate for the elimination of any public financing of “abstinence only until marriage” sex ed curricula.
- Support funding for community-based sexual health education programs.
- Support funding and programs for students and adults with special needs and developmental disabilities.
- Require crisis pregnancy centers to disclose the true nature of their services.

THROUGH OUR PLATFORM FOR TRANSFORMATION, WE WILL WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO

- Assess and promote culturally appropriate curricula for sexuality education, justice in schools, communities, and local public health district programs.
- Mobilize support for institutionalizing sexuality education within public schools.
- Provide instructional support for sex ed teachers in all programs, whether school-based or community-based.
- Promote formation of “sex ed” student groups or clubs.
- Promote and expand the ability of doulas working with incarcerated pregnant women to provide reproductive and sexual health education.

You can join us! Contact us at (206) 486-6440. For a detailed analysis of legal barriers, policy proposals, and the work of community groups promoting sex education justice, go to www.surgereprojustice.org.

Surge stands with communities whose bodies, lives, and families have been subject to state and social control. We advance racial and reproductive justice through community engagement, education, and policy advocacy by mobilizing communities.

We envision a world where all communities are free from reproductive oppression, racism, and violence.