

# SECTION V: Mapping It Out



Now that you've educated yourself and gathered information about what your classmates and community say about sexuality education, you can decide to make some suggestions about what your school needs.

You can do this in a couple of different ways. Each way is outlined in this section.

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## Making Your Map

When thinking about what type of sexuality education you want in your school, remember to consider three broad subject areas: teachers, timing and topics. Here are some ways you can approach creating a proposal to present to your school board. Each community is different. Try to find the approach that best fits your school and town's needs and concerns.

1. **Resolve.** Write a general resolution that states, in broad terms, what type of education students in your school want. This can become a general statement that you will ask your school board to approve. It's different from a proposal because it doesn't include specific suggestions. Instead, it's a broad statement of a commitment to quality sexuality education. Generally, you'll want to address three general areas of sexuality education: Teachers, timing and topics. A sample resolution is included in this section of the kit, but it's best if you tailor your resolution so that it reflects your community's views on the topic.
2. **Target Topics.** You can use your surveys and the information you learned at the community forum, to make a list of specific subjects that should be taught but are currently overlooked. Your list might be long. To make it more manageable, you might want to decide on the top three subjects that your group wants included in the curriculum.

When doing this, remember to think about which topics have the best chance of gaining community support. For example, if parents really objected to teaching about abortion, you may want to shelve that topic — for now. Try to zero in on subjects that surveyed teens said they need more information on and that parents, teachers and school officials did not object to.

- 3. Teachers & Training.** Did students feel that your teachers were comfortable with the subject of sexuality and well trained? What did parents and the community say about this topic? Do you think that teaching methods like peer education or role playing would make good additions to your sexuality education curriculum?
- 4. Remember the “when.”** Your proposal could ask for sex ed to be taught earlier. For example, does your school wait until senior year to give students sexuality education? Is that the right time? Or should certain topics be discussed earlier? Be prepared to back up your suggestions with reasons (i.e., by 12th grade, a large percentage of youths have already had sex; some have dropped out of school because they’re pregnant).

## Sample School Board Resolution

A simple way to begin getting the school board on your side is by offering a general resolution that supports the idea of good sexuality education in high school. It is a broad statement of policy that can be presented early in the process and can help create a general sense of agreement between the school board, the community, teachers, parents and students. The devil, of course, is in the details, which you’ll work through in your proposal.

### Resolution

The [town, city, county, regional] Board of Education recognizes the need for comprehensive sexuality education in our high school.

The board believes that every young person has the right to graduate from high school free of pregnancy and disease. We recognize that pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among young people are serious problems.

We also believe that students need accurate information and decision-making and communication skills to make choices that will be good for their future.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the [town, city, county, regional] Board of Education supports comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education in our schools.

## Sample School Board Proposal

A proposal is more specific than a resolution. It generally asks for certain things. The following proposal is just a sample. Your school may have some similar issues, but your proposal needs to target your school’s specific situation. Be sure to start your proposal by stating what is already good about your school’s program, even if it isn’t much.

\_\_\_\_\_ School’s existing sexuality education program has many of the components that are called for in a comprehensive sexuality education program. But, some critical parts are missing. We hope you’ll consider our proposed changes, which are detailed below. We believe these changes could mean that students in our school will make smarter choices, giving all of us a better chance of graduating from high school free of pregnancy and disease.

- 1. Group Discussions.** Although some of the lessons in the current program include time for discussion, we would like EVERY lesson to include at least fifteen minutes at the end of class for students to talk about issues and ask questions. This will help us sort out how we feel. It will also make it easier for us to communicate with our future partners and help us learn to understand and respect other people’s opinions.
- 2. Contraception.** The current program covers contraception, but we want more information about how each method works and its pros and cons. We also want to see actual methods so everyone — guys and girls — can become more familiar with them. This information will help us make good decisions about the method that would be best for us, when the time comes. Also, if we have seen and handled the various devices in class, we will be more likely to use them if we decide to have sex.
- 3. Saying “No”.** Our current curriculum does not include role plays about how to say “no” to sex. We would also like role plays about how to get a partner to use a condom. Many of us will be faced with this kind of situation in the next few years and although we need to know how to say “no”, we need to know what to do if and when we are ready to say “yes”.