



Latina/o Sex Education Action Kit

Taking Action!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING

As a community advocate, you have the power to organize a campaign to promote comprehensive sexuality education in your community. Below is a checklist of the types of activities that you can explore to start your campaign – whether it involves youth, parents, or a broad-based coalition effort. If you are working with Latina/o parents or youth, feel free to use bilingual or culturally-based tools – like those in this Action Kit!

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST

Educate Your Local School Board & Elected Representatives

Help raise awareness about the need and importance of providing comprehensive sexuality education in your local schools. Educate local school board members about California law requirements and help the schools comply with SB71. (Please see SB71 Fact Sheet for more information.) Highlight why it matters to the Latina/o community! Possible activities include:

- ✓ Write an article from different points of view - yours, other community members' or those of coalition partners, for the school or local newspaper. Send the printed article to your school board members.
- ✓ Write a letter or an "action alert" to support a proposed policy intended to strengthen comprehensive sex ed in your community.
- ✓ Organize a formal petition with community members or coalition partners to present before a school board meeting.
- ✓ Testify before your school board about why comprehensive sexuality education is important to your community.

Conduct Action Research

Investigate whether quality comprehensive sexuality education as required by SB71 is being taught in your local schools, especially how it is being implemented in Latina/o communities. Possible activities include:

- ✓ Use CLRJ's Youth and Parent Surveys to conduct surveys with youth or parents.
- ✓ Create opportunities to organize the youth, parents and community members who participate in the action research.
- ✓ Present your findings to the local school board.
- ✓ Write an article or "op-ed" for your local newspaper about your findings.
- ✓ Write a report about your findings and recommendations about how to comply with SB 71.

Build Coalitions

Develop relationships with community-based or campus organizations to build support for a local campaign to promote comprehensive sexuality education. You will have the opportunity to share your skills, strengths and resources, and empower each other to have a greater effect in your communities. Possible coalition allies include:

- ✓ Social justice groups
- ✓ Youth or parent groups

- ✓ Health access groups
- ✓ Women's rights groups
- ✓ Educational justice groups
- ✓ Promotoras

□ **Use the News Media**

Use the news media as an organizing and advocacy tool to get visibility for your campaign, and to get your message out to your target audience(s), whether it's youth, parents, teachers, or elected officials.

- ✓ Write an article or editorial about the need and importance of comprehensive sexuality education in your community.
- ✓ Start a new group on a social networking site to reach a broad youth audience.
- ✓ Meet with reporters to provide them with background information about your campaign. Refer them to other community members (e.g., parents, youth, teachers) who can be interviewed.
- ✓ Target Spanish-language newspapers, radio and TV media outlets to highlight why this issue is important to the Latina/o community.

□ **Volunteer for a Community-based Advocacy Organization**

Support an organization that is already working to ensure that quality comprehensive sexuality education is being offered in the schools. By volunteering, you will have the opportunity to share your ideas and become more empowered with new organizing and advocacy skills.

- ✓ Help train other advocates.
- ✓ Help inform and conduct research.
- ✓ Network with potential new allies.

□ **Start a Campus Club or Partner with a Community Organization**

- ✓ Monitor the quality and access of comprehensive sexuality education in your school or in your community.
- ✓ Develop projects that are important to you and your peers.
- ✓ Join community groups that work in your schools, they may have other resources for you!

IDEAS FOR YOUTH

□ **Educate and Work with Your Peers**

Help raise young people's awareness about students' right to quality comprehensive sexuality education in their schools.

- ✓ Conduct a workshop or training at your school campus, or nearby community center.
- ✓ Write an article in your school or local newspaper.
- ✓ Organize an art exhibit at your school campus, or nearby community center.
- ✓ Organize a school play or theater show at your school campus, or nearby community center.
- ✓ Use CLRJ's Youth Zine as an educational tool.

PARENT-FRIENDLY IDEAS

□ **Educate and Work with Parents**

- ✓ Conduct a presentation at your next PTA meeting.
- ✓ Join your local Promotoras program and spread the word!
- ✓ Use CLRJ's Fotonovela as an educational tool.