

# SECTION III: Fueling Up



This section of the guide will help you gather the information you need to map out a route to success. It will help you discover how students, parents and others in your community feel about sex ed.

## Contents:

- **Student Survey.** Ask your fellow students what kind of information they need.
- **Parent Survey.** Find out how parents feel about sexuality education.
- **Community Petition.** Get your community to sign on for comprehensive sexuality education.

## Student Survey: How to Use the Student Survey

You can use the following survey to find out what kind of information and skills students in your school say they need. Make enough copies of the survey to send one home with every student in your school. Ask your principal if you can distribute the surveys to students through the home room teachers.

Ask students to return the surveys to school. Designate a place where they can leave the surveys. (The main office is probably a good idea if your principal agrees.) Collect the returned surveys every day to reduce the chances that any get lost.

If your principal won't give you permission to distribute and collect the surveys, then you can distribute them outside school as students are coming and going. You can have students return the surveys to a particular locker, for example. Be creative. Don't let an uncooperative administrator stop you from having a say in your own education.

This is simply supposed to give you an idea of what students in your school think about your current sex ed and what kind of information they need. It is not a scientific survey.

But it does tell you what kind of information students feel they need. You should present this information to the school board and ask them to provide the information that students in your school have asked for.

# Student Survey

## Sex Ed in Our School: What Do You Need to Know?

Tired of lame sex ed classes? Fill out this survey and help usher in a new era of sex ed in our school. We are circulating this survey to learn what YOU need to know about sex and health issues. We will use your responses to shape our request that the Board of Education give us better sex education classes. Please be honest and serious. This survey could be the first step in getting the education we need to make really important decisions about our lives. It's also anonymous — meaning you don't have to put your name on it unless you want to. Thanks for your help.

Survey distributed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (club or group name)

When completed, please return survey to: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are your sex ed teachers comfortable talking about sex, relationships and other related issues:

Yes       No

2. In our school, sex education starts:

Too Soon

Too Late

Just Right

3. In which grade should sex education begin? (Please note that early grades would have classes that are appropriate for their age)

Before 6th grade

9th

6th

10th

7th

11th

8th

12th

4. Should our school make free condoms available to students, along with counseling on sexuality issues?

Yes       No

5. Do you feel that teaching students about condoms and contraception encourages teens to have sex?

Yes       No

6. Please grade our current sex ed classes: (check one)

**A. Excellent.** We get all the information and skills we need, plus we have some great discussions.

**B. Above Average.** We have some decent discussions and learn a lot about important issues.

**C. Average.** Some of it is OK, but a lot is missing.

**Below Average.** It doesn't relate to me at all.

**Failed.** Didn't receive any sex education.

7. Are you able to talk to a parent or trusted adult about sex?

Yes       No

About You: (This section is optional. Don't fill it out if you are uncomfortable giving information about yourself.)

8. Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Gender:

Male       Female

10. Have you ever felt pressured to have sex?

Yes       No

11. Have you ever felt like you didn't know enough or have the skills to make good decisions about sex?

Yes       No

Comments:

(anything we didn't ask that you want us to know)

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If you want to get involved with our efforts to bring better sexuality education to our school, please contact:

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# Student Survey Tally Sheet

Use this sheet to tally the responses to your student survey.

Total # of respondents: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are your sex ed teachers comfortable talking about sex, relationships and others related issues:

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

2. In our school, sex education starts:

	# answering	% of total
Too Soon	_____	_____
Too Late	_____	_____
Just Right	_____	_____

3. In which grade should sex education begin:

	# answering	% of total
Before 6th grade	_____	_____
6th	_____	_____
7th	_____	_____
8th	_____	_____
9th	_____	_____
10th	_____	_____
11th	_____	_____
12th	_____	_____

4. Should our school make free condoms available to students, along with counseling on sexuality issues?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

5. Does teaching about contraception encourage young people to have sex?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

6. Please grade our current sex ed classes: (check one)

	# answering	% of total
A	_____	_____
B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____
D	_____	_____
F	_____	_____

7. Can you to talk to a parent or trusted adult about sex?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

About You: (This section is optional. Don't fill it out if you are uncomfortable giving information about yourself.)

8. Grade

	# answering	% of total
9th	_____	_____
10th	_____	_____
11th	_____	_____
12th	_____	_____

9. Gender

	# answering	% of total
Male	_____	_____
Female	_____	_____

10. Have you ever felt pressured to have sex?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

11. Have you ever felt like you didn't know enough to make good decisions about sex?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

## Parent Survey How to Use the Parent Survey

You can use the following survey to find out what parents think about sex ed in your high school.

There are several ways to get the survey to parents. Each has advantages and disadvantages and some will be easier than others, depending on the amount of support you have from your school officials.

- 1. Mail It.** If you have lots of money and time you could mail a survey and a self-addressed stamped envelope to each parent. (Use your school directory to get the addresses.) You will probably need permission from the principal to do this. Depending on the size of the school, this could be very expensive and time consuming.
- 2. Stuff Backpacks.** With permission from the principal, you could send the survey home with students and have parents either mail it to you or have their son/daughter bring it back to school and put it in a specified location ( a box in the main office, for example). Would the majority of kids give this to their parents? Would they bring it back? You are the best judge of that.
- 3. Table It.** You could stand outside of school on Back-to-School night or during any other school event that parents attend and hand out copies of the survey with an address printed on it so that parents know what to do with it after they complete it. Or better yet, have them fill it out right there on the spot. You may still need permission from the principal to be on school grounds.
- 4. Network.** Without a cooperative adult helping you, this job becomes more difficult. You may need to talk to your friends and ask them to give the survey to their parents. You will not get as many responses, and your results might be a bit biased, but you will have something to present to the school board.

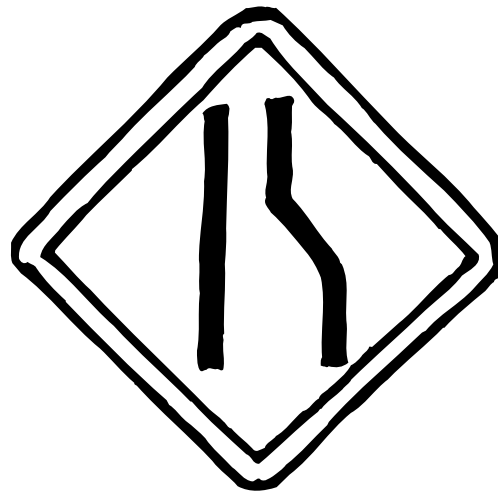
*Note: If you are asking parents to mail their responses to you, you may want to think about getting a post office box. They're not very expensive. You can get an application at your local post office. And, if school officials are hostile to your project, they may not give you the letters mailed to you at school. Also, it may be better not to use a student's home address if you think your project is going to make some people really angry.*

### How to Use the Information

The information you'll find out with this survey is basically like a "temperature reading" of parents in your community. It'll tell you what they object to and what they support when it comes to sex ed. This is not a scientific survey. Instead, it's a way to understand what parents in your community think about this issue.

You can use this information to help you make a pitch to the school board. Say, for example, that many parents support comprehensive sexuality education for their children. You'll also be able to say to your school board, "XX percentage of parents responding to our survey support sexuality education in schools."

A sheet follows that will help you tabulate the results of the survey.



# Parent Survey

## Sex Ed in High School: What Do You Think?

As students at \_\_\_\_\_ school, we are interested in knowing how the parents in our community feel about sexuality education. We are currently looking at the programs offered at our school and would like to know your views on this important subject. We may use this information to persuade the school board to reconsider the type of sex ed we receive.

We are asking that all responses be returned no later than: \_\_\_\_\_ Please do not put your name on the survey. It is completely anonymous. If, however, you would like to get more involved in helping us bring better sexuality education to our students or if you have questions about this survey, please contact:

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1. Do you think there should be sexuality education in the schools?  
 Yes  
 No
2. In which grade do you think age-appropriate sexuality education should be taught? (check all that apply)  
 Before 6th grade  
 6th  
 7th  
 8th  
 9th  
 10th  
 11th  
 12th  
 Not at school
3. Would you be interested in participating in a program for parents about how to talk to your child about sex?  
 Yes  
 No
4. Do you think teaching young people about contraception encourages them to have sex?  
 Yes  
 No
5. Do you want your children to learn about safer sex, contraception, abstinence and other aspects of human sexuality?  
 Yes  
 No
6. Please use this space to express any other feelings you have about sexuality education in our school.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks very much for your time in answering these questions.*

# Parent Survey Tally Sheet

Use this sheet to tally the responses you received to the survey.

Total # of respondents: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you think there should be sexuality education in the schools?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

2. In which grade do you think sexuality education should be taught?

	# answering	% of total
Before 6th grade	_____	_____
6th	_____	_____
7th	_____	_____
8th	_____	_____
9th	_____	_____
10th	_____	_____
11th	_____	_____
12th	_____	_____
Not at school	_____	_____

3. Would you be interested in participating in a program for parents about sexuality education?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

4. Do you think teaching young people about contraception encourages them to have sex?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

5. Do you want your children to learn about safer sex, contraception, abstinence and other aspects of human sexuality?

	# answering	% of total
Yes	_____	_____
No	_____	_____

Any additional comments should be compiled into a series of quotes to give a cross-section of views on this subject.





