



Teaching sexuality education should be mandatory.
Together, we can ensure our children receive a complete education.

WHO – The Sex Ed Alliance of New York City (SEANYC) is a coalition of students, parents, teachers, advocates, and community-based organizations working to improve health and sexuality education in the New York City public schools. Our advocacy efforts are supported by a broad and growing base of local and national organizations, listed below.

WHY – According to the most recent New York City Youth Risk Behavior Survey, about half of New York public high school students have had sex and 1 in 3 is currently sexually active. Every year, in the U.S. nearly one million American teenage girls face an unintended pregnancy. One in four new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) occurs in adolescents, and every hour two teens contract HIV. But New York City does not yet require schools to provide sexuality education. Therefore, it is left up to us to ensure that all students receive the life-saving information and skills they need to make responsible, informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives.

WHAT – SEANYC recognizes that sexuality education is integral to students' overall health, well-being, decision-making and academic achievement. As such, we are working to ensure that age-appropriate and medically accurate sexuality and STI/HIV prevention education becomes a core component of the academic experience for *all* NYC public school students.

Specifically, SEANYC calls for:

- * Sex Ed for every grade taught every year in every school;
- * Sex Ed that is age appropriate for the students;
- * Sex Ed that is medically accurate and based on facts;
- * Sex Ed that is culturally competent;
- * Sex Ed that is inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth, and questioning youth;
- * Sex Ed that includes information about abstinence, contraception and STI and HIV/AIDS prevention;
- * Sex Ed that is taught by well-trained teachers;
- * Sex Ed that includes the entire school community (i.e., students, teachers, administrators, parents and caregivers, and the other important stakeholders of the individual school community);
- * Sex Ed that includes linkages with health care centers and providers;
- * Sex Ed that empowers New York City youth to make informed decisions to build healthy futures.

Additionally, SEANYC is currently campaigning to expand the implementation of the new sexuality education curricula announced by the New York City Department of Education in October 2007 to all New York City public schools. The instruction should be coupled with periodic outside evaluations, teacher training, oversight and enforcement mechanisms, adequate funding in support of this program and ultimately, a legislative solution like the adoption of a comprehensive sexuality education mandate by the New York City Council.

WHEN & WHERE — Check out our blog for more information about meetings, events and how to get involved with SEANYC! www.sexedallianceofnyc.blogspot.com

SEANYC is: Center for Women and HIV Advocacy (CWhA), Community Healthcare Network, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), Inwood House, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center), Love Heals, National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH), NARAL Pro-Choice New York, New York AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN), New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC), Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US (SIECUS)