

# #TeachThem

Sexuality

Education

**ADVOCATING FOR SEX ED THAT  
TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, HARASSMENT,  
AND CONSENT.**



A CAMPAIGN FROM SIECUS & ACTIVIST TARANA BURKE

[www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)

 SIECUS

Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the United States

# #TeachThem

MOVING BEYOND A HASHTAG: ADVOCATING FOR SEX ED THAT TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT, HARASSMENT, AND CONSENT.

## #MeToo: A Recap

In 2006, activist Tarana Burke created the Me Too Movement<sup>1</sup> to unify people—particularly women of color—who had been affected by sexual violence. Burke’s movement works to harness the power of empathy to “turn victims into survivors and survivors into thrivers.”

Over a decade later, “Me Too” resurfaced when actress Alyssa Milano tweeted, “If you’ve been sexually harassed or assaulted write ‘me too’ as a reply to this tweet.” In the days since Milano’s tweet, millions of social media users have shared stories of experiencing sexual assault and harassment under the hashtag #MeToo.

## Okay, got it. Now, why #TeachThem?

#MeToo has brought conversations surrounding sexual assault and harassment under a much-needed national spotlight. While necessary, powerful, and terrible all at the same time, #MeToo is a starting point.

#TeachThem builds action on top of awareness. If we want to address the ever-present issues of sexual assault, harassment, and consent in this country, we need to start by educating people about them.

Most people never learned about consent or sexual assault in school. And most people never learned about these concepts from their parents either.<sup>2</sup> Among the many pitfalls of sexuality education in this country lies the shocking fact that only one state (California)<sup>3</sup> in the U.S. mandates "consent" be taught as a part of sexuality education instruction.

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## How do we #TeachThem?

Fortunately, we already have the tools we need to teach young people about sexual assault, harassment, and consent through comprehensive sexuality education curricula.

Comprehensive sexuality education refers to "K-12 sexuality education programs that include age- and developmentally appropriate, science-based, and medically accurate information on a broad set of topics related to sexuality, including human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behaviors including abstinence, sexual health, and society and culture."<sup>4</sup>

This type of sexuality education takes a holistic approach to educating young people about sex and sexuality--going beyond the typical "only focused on sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies" approach to sex ed.

Comprehensive sexuality education is viewed favorably by the public (both students and parents alike) as well as major health and medical organizations.<sup>5</sup>

However, too many schools fail to take advantage of what could be life-changing, or, in some cases, life-saving educational opportunities.

1. <http://metoo.support/>
2. [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/1414/6117/4323/Consent\\_Survey.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/1414/6117/4323/Consent_Survey.pdf)
3. [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB695](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB695)
4. <http://www.futureofsexed.org/youthhealthrights.html>
5. <https://siecus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/In-Good-Company-2014.pdf>

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## Here's where you come in.

### 1. Learn about sex ed in your state:

View the [SIECUS STATE PROFILES](#)—an annual publication that includes individual profiles on sexuality education policy, data, and funding for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, associated states, and the outer United States territories.

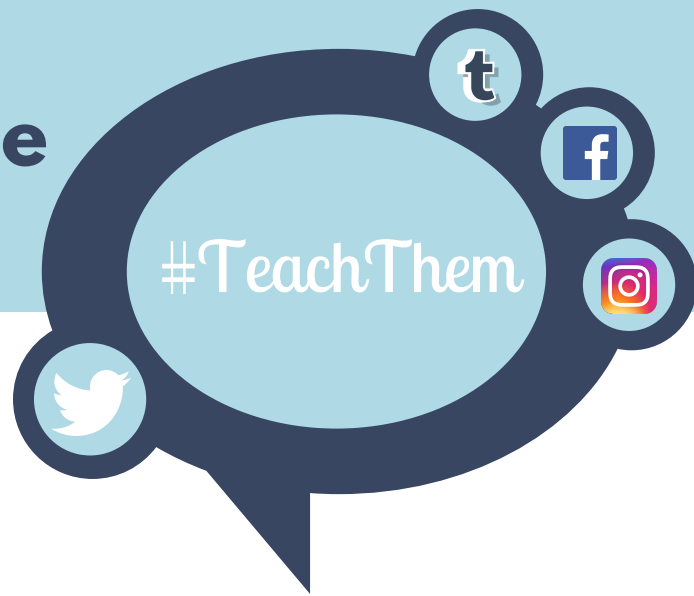
### 2. Once you know about sex ed in your community, advocate for change at the district and state levels with the following resources:

- [FOSE TOOLKIT FOR STATES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES](#)
- [WHY SEX ED? TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS](#)
- [TALKING POINTS TO SHARE WITH YOUR LOCAL POLICYMAKER](#)

### 3. Join the national conversation:

Reach out to your Senators and Representatives and encourage them to support [The Real Education for Healthy Youth Act \(REHYA\)](#) – a piece of legislation that would establish the first-ever dedicated federal funding stream for comprehensive sexuality education and teacher training for elementary, secondary, and higher learning institutions.

# Finally, #TeachThem by making some noise online!



Share our sample social media posts and graphics below--all linking to this handy toolkit and spread the word!

## Sample Posts



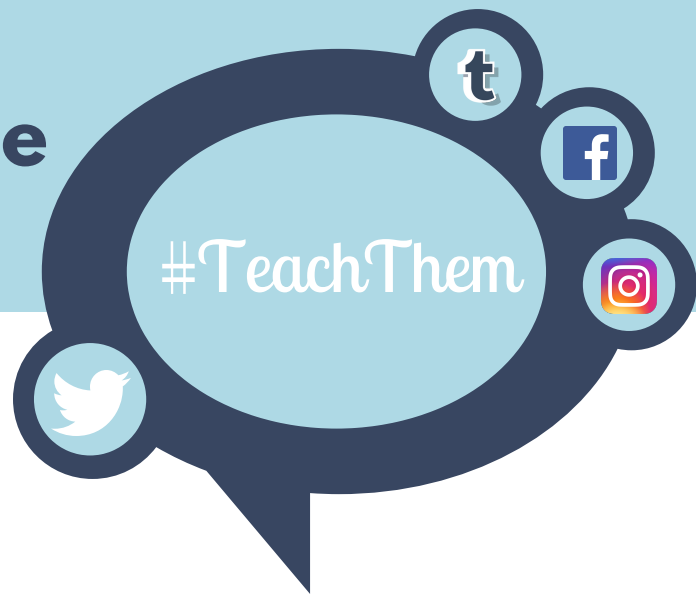
- #TeachThem that when #MeToo stops trending, sexual assault & harassment will still exist. <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- #TeachThem that they need to respect everybody & every body. #MeToo <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- #TeachThem. Listen to them. Learn from them. Believe them. Young ppl deserve to learn about sexual assault in school. <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- No more #MeToo. Let's ensure young people learn about sexual assault, harassment, and consent in Sex Ed. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- The reality is: schools and parents both fail to teach kids about sexual assault, harassment, & consent. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- Felt overwhelmed by the sheer volume of #metoo stories? There's a lot we can do about it. Learn more → <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18> #TeachThem
- Want to help prevent sexual violence in your community? Make sure young ppl learn about it in school. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- Over 60% of people believe too little is being done to educate about sexual assault in schools. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- Every 98 seconds, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted. We need to fix this. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- Join us in working to ensure that young people learn about consent in school. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- RT if you believe in educating young people about sexual assault, harassment, and consent. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>



- Every student has the right to learn about sexual assault, harassment, and consent in the classroom. And we have the tools to #TeachThem. <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- #MeToo started a necessary conversation. Now, let's build action on top of awareness and advocate for young people to learn about sexual assault, harassment, and consent in the classroom. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>
- Thanks to the #MeToo movement, conversations around sexual assault have been brought to light nationwide. But, how do we prevent these issues from happening in the first place? Let's start with education. #TeachThem <http://bit.ly/TeachThem2K18>

# Finally, #TeachThem by making some noise online!

Share our social media graphics below--all linking to this handy toolkit and spread the word!



## Sharable Graphics

Download these graphics [here](#).



Easily download and share sample posts and graphics by visiting our [shared folder](#).