



## WE'RE GROWING THE MOVEMENT TO ADVANCE COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED!

**SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change** is the only national organization laser-focused on advancing comprehensive sex education since 1964. SIECUS' mission is to advance sex education through advocacy, policy and coalition building in order to achieve an equitable nation where all people receive sex education, are affirmed in their identities, and have power to make decisions about their own health, pleasure, and wholeness.



### Building A Movement

In May 2021, SIECUS relaunched the **Sex Ed Policy Action Council (SEPAC)**. SEPAC allows members to benefit from SIECUS technical assistance to successfully push for sex education policies in their own communities; share best practices and strategies to advance sex education in their home states; and acts as a critical base for SIECUS to take action to advance SIECUS-led priorities in Congress.

What this means:

- SEPAC members are found in **34 states!**
- **19 states** received advocacy technical support

### Creating Resources to Advance Comprehensive, Inclusive Sex Education!

In addition to resources to help advocates advance new laws and policies, SIECUS released new resources to help expand sex ed programs that reflect the lived experiences of young people today!

- [Comprehensive Sex Education for Youth with Disabilities: A Call to Action](#)
- [A Call to Action: LGBTQ+ Youth Need Inclusive Sex Education](#)
- [2021 State Profiles](#) – fully online!
- [2021 Sex Ed State Legislative Mid-Year Report](#)
- [History of Sex Ed](#)

### Legislative Success!

#### Congress Introduces the Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act

SIECUS led the drafting of a brand-new sex education bill – the **Real Education and Access for Healthy Youth Act (REAHYA)**. For the first time, REAHYA centers the needs of our most underserved youth, and incorporates reproductive justice- and equity-oriented provisions into federal funding support for adolescent sexual health programs. The bill has 11 Senate cosponsors and 84 House cosponsors, exceeding the level of support that prior sex ed bills have received!

#### States Movement Building

Through our support of SEPAC members, SIECUS backed legislation, the **Keeping Youth Safe & Healthy Act**, was signed into law in Illinois this year! This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> state to pass a version of our model legislation since it was first drafted. Moreover, **progressive sex ed bills passed in 6 states** this year, including in Alabama and Virginia with SIECUS' support!



# EVENTS

This year, SIECUS hosted and joined virtual convenings at the **frontier** of sex education!

## The Future of Sex Ed Research Convening

In February 2021, SIECUS led the Future of Sex Education collaborative in partnership with the Widener Center for Human Sexuality Studies to host a virtual convening, joined by over 180 enthusiastic academics, researchers, and experts in a conversation to diversify the metrics and analysis of comprehensive sex education to recognize non-pregnancy and disease related benefits of sex ed. This evidence will be used to push the federal government to expand its approach to adolescent sexual health programs to support sexual violence prevention, healthy relationships, mental health, and affirmation of gender and sexual diversity.

## FUTURE OF SEX EDUCATION RESEARCH CONVENING

CO-HOSTED BY THE FUTURE OF SEX EDUCATION INITIATIVE (FOSE): ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH, ANSWER, AND SIECUS: SEX ED FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WIDENER UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HUMAN SEXUALITY STUDIES

SAVE THE DATE!  
FEBRUARY 24TH & 25TH FROM 12-5 P.M. EST

## Sex Ed for All Month

In 2019, SIECUS joined 5 other national organizations to rebrand May as Sex Ed for All Month. This year, SIECUS joined the Sex Ed Collaborative and Sex Ed Coalition to take Sex Ed for All month to the next level!

- SIECUS worked closely with Representative Pramila Jayapal to introduce the Congressional Resolution to recognize May as Sex Ed for All Month!
- SIECUS partnered with SiX to co-lead a Youth Town Hall with over **150 attendees** engaged in a panel featuring young activists discussing their experiences advancing sex ed at the state and federal level.
- SIECUS helped the Sex Ed Coalition host a Congressional Briefing to introduce REAHYA to congress and to the public. SIECUS President/CEO spoke alongside Representatives Alma Adams and Barbara Lee to introduce the importance of this new legislation to **85 participants**.



## SEX ED ON THE HILL 2021

On October 20 & 21, SIECUS hosted **over 80 SEPAC members from over 30 states** for the 2021 Sex Ed on the Hill event. The event included remarks from Rep Pramila Jayapal, messaging and story-telling strategy practice, community organizing and power mapping training for participants. SEPAC members led **62 Hill visits** and yielded **10 new co-sponsors in support of REAHYA!**

"Thank you for organizing such a wonderful opportunity for advocacy today! I really enjoyed my first lobbying experience, and I can't wait for more in the future. All the workshops, trainings and resources were all very helpful and appreciated."  
Kelley Wilds, SEPAC Member, Washington

"I learned so much this week and felt so inspired by this experience. Thank you all for what you do!"  
Dani Van Liefde, SEPAC Member, California



In 2021, SIECUS received over 708 media mentions, garnering an approximate potential reach of 1.5 billion people. Highlights include:

#### PRINT

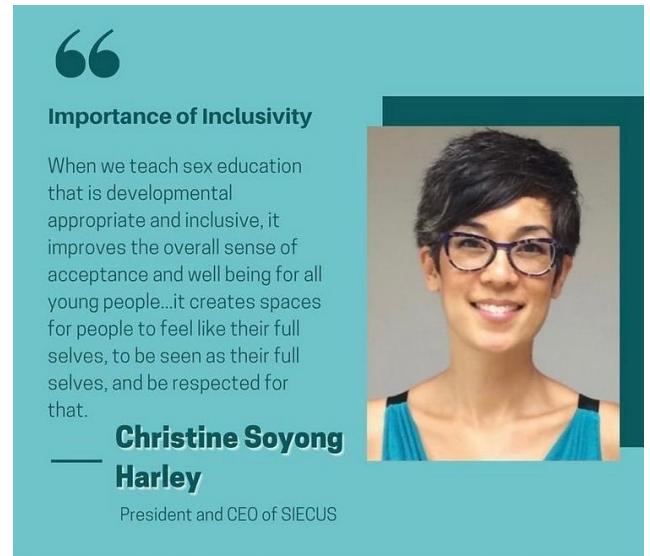
- **Ms. Magazine** - [The History of Sex Ed: From Awkward and Exclusionary, to Affirmative and Empowering](#)
- **Rewire**: [How Sex Ed Has the Power to Make Social Change](#)
- **USA Today** - [LGBTQ students need inclusive sex ed - but less than 10% in US are receiving it, report says](#)
- **Business Insider** - [A look at how US sex education in public schools has evolved over the last 60 years and its impact on LGBTQ students](#)

#### PODCASTS

- **NPR Life Kit** - [The Sex Ed Most Queer Students Never Got](#)
- **Down for the Cause**: <https://anchor.fm/dftc-thepod/episodes/Down-for-Sex-Ed-eudg73>
- **Power Station**: [Interview with Christine Soyong Harley](#)

#### TV

- **BBC World News TV** - [BBC World News Interview on Sexual Consent Education](#)



**Importance of Inclusivity**

When we teach sex education that is developmental appropriate and inclusive, it improves the overall sense of acceptance and well being for all young people...it creates spaces for people to feel like their full selves, to be seen as their full selves, and be respected for that.

**Christine Soyong Harley**  
President and CEO of SIECUS

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**educateUS**  
SIECUS IN ACTION

**Are you ready to change U.S. sex education for good?**

## ANNOUNCING!!!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our new sister organization:

### **EducateUS: SIECUS In Action**

EducateUS is a 501c4 advocacy organization, which means that it's custom-built to expand the range of tactics available to us in the fight to make a better world through comprehensive sex education. Think community organizing, electoral advocacy, groundbreaking legal strategies, and more. Learn more at [www.educateusaction.org](http://www.educateusaction.org)!



**SIECUS is Growing!** This year, the following individuals joined the team: **Alison Macklin** as State Policy & Advocacy Director; **Michelle Hope Slaybaugh** as Program Director; **Jaclyn Friedman** as the Vice President of Strategy; and **Nawal Umar** as Policy Analyst.