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Organizing Strategies for Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Campaigns in Connecticut

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Organizing Strategies for Comprehensive Sexuality Education Campaigns in Connecticut

Eleanor Faraguna '21

Community Partner: Healthy Youth Coalition and NARAL Pro-Choice CT Faculty Advisor: Erica Crowley



Community Partnerships

The Healthy Youth Coalition (HYC) is a Connecticutbased coalition made of advocacy groups dedicated to passing mandated comprehensive sexuality education state-wide level. NARAL Pro-Choice CT is an active coalition member, providing advocacy and organizational resources. I worked in partnership with both organizations to create a report offering recommendations for organizing strategies.

The HYC'c primary concerns are:

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Research Questions

- What is comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)?
- What steps has New York taken to implement CSE into public schools?
- How can Connecticut apply these organizing principles to provide CSE to students?

Methodology

This report will be utilized by the members of the HYC understand the realities and challenges of organizing a CSE campaign in Connecticut. To produce this report, I have conducted:

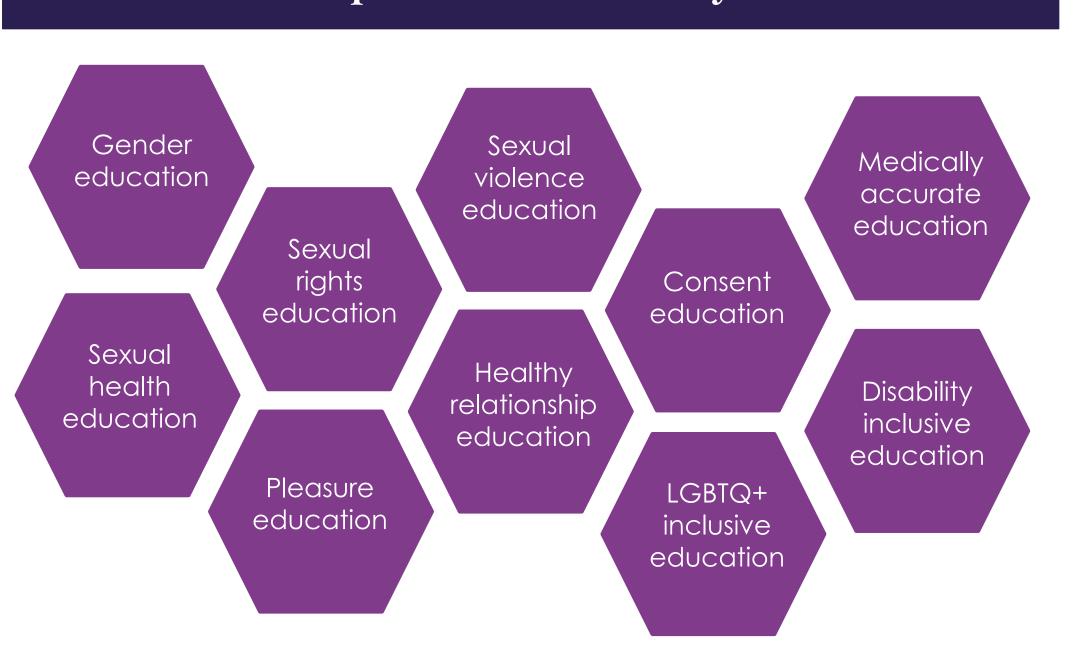


Qualitative interviews

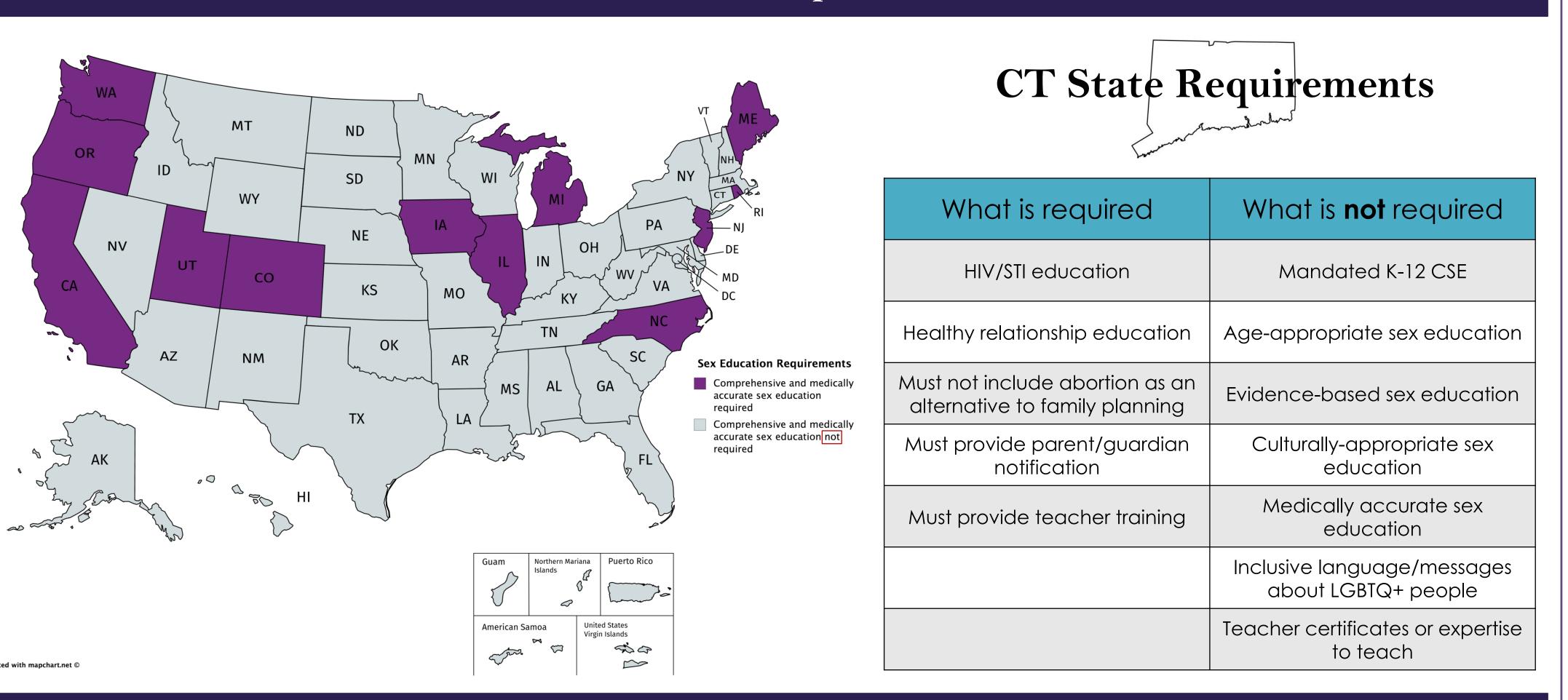
Extensive literature review



What is Comprehensive Sexuality Education?

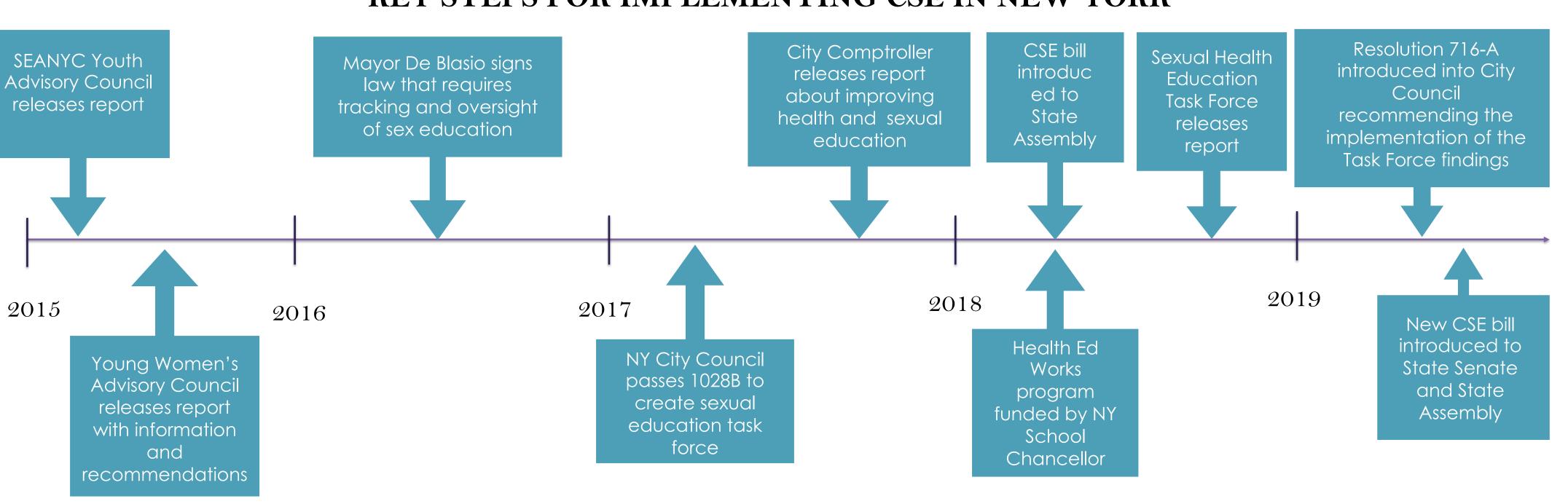


National and State Landscape of Sex Education



Case Study Findings and Key Informants

KEY STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING CSE IN NEW YORK



"The local organizing piece [is] how we get community buy in...[that way] there's such a wealth of knowledge and resources that come to the Healthy Youth table [and that is how] we get communities connected."

To ensure policy enforcement and implementation there must also be a "cultural shift in which we acknowledge and talk about youth's sexual experiences."

"You really need to be [in] pretty dedicated communication with young people...to figure out how to actually engage in a way that's meaningful...but that just takes work and it takes time."

"You can't have equitable schools if you don't teach sex education."

"The people closest to the issue are also closest to the solution."

Jillian Gilchrest Leader of the HYC and State Representative



Shanique Reid Program and Youth Specialist at PPSNE



Emily Kadar Senior Manager of Political and Government Affairs at the NIRH



Brittany Brathwaite Co-director of SEANYC and reproductive justice activist

Challenges for Connecticut



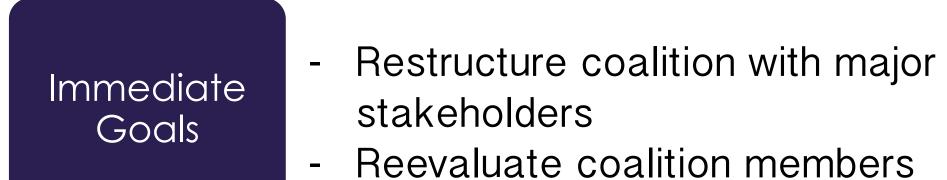




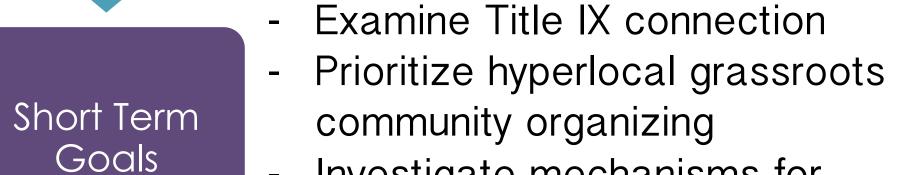




Recommendations



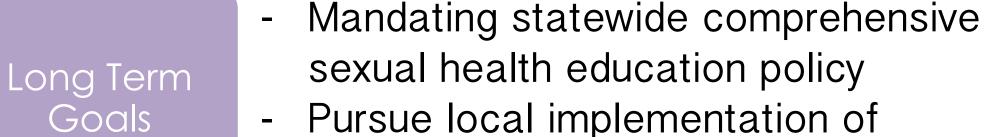




Goals

Investigate mechanisms for implementation

- Conduct opposition research



existing state guidelines

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References available upon request.