

PROJECT 2025 AND SEX EDUCATION

A QUICKSTART GUIDE TO FIGHTING BACK



CHANGING SEX ED FOR GOOD

WHAT IS PROJECT 2025? WHO'S BEHIND IT?

- [Project 2025](#) is a detailed book of policies for the next right-wing President (that's Trump, if he wins in November) to use as soon as he takes office.
- Two [former Trump officials](#) lead the project at the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank. [More than 30](#) Trump officials also contributed to the document
- Over 100 right-wing [groups](#) are on the Project 2025 advisory board, including Moms for Liberty, which [collaborated with Project 2025](#) to write its proposals on education and diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Nearly [40 organizations](#) on the Project 2025 advisory board have received funding from shady groups linked to Leonard Leo, the architect of the [Christian nationalist takeover](#) of the Supreme Court.

These people are coming for every single one of our freedoms, including our right to bodily autonomy and our right to education. That means, of course, that the extremists behind Project 2025 are coming for sex education.

But we can get organized and fight back. Let's start with the facts...

PROJECT 2025'S STRATEGY FOR BANNING SEX ED

If we let them, MAGA Republican politicians will follow Project 2025 and make it illegal to teach sex education – not just in public schools, but anywhere.

In three different ways! They will:

- Force teachers or librarians who provide sex ed to young people to register as sex offenders¹.
- Give individual parents the right to sue schools for teaching anything they don't approve of, and make it nearly impossible for those parents to lose in court. School administrators can't afford to risk this kind of a lawsuit, so they will just drop courses like sex ed that are likely to attract lawsuits².
- Make all "pornography" illegal - more on that below.

As if that wasn't enough, they'll also:

- Replace the federal government's lists of proven, effective, evidence-based sex ed curricula with abstinence propaganda (they call it "sexual risk avoidance"²)
- Tell federal health offices and family planning clinics to preach marriage, abstinence, and "fertility awareness"³ instead of actual medical advice
- Push Christian nationalist "marriage and relationship" education programs in high schools that teach that "children require and deserve both the love and nurturing of a mother and the play and protection of a father"⁴

Their main strategy for banning sex ed? Redefining 'pornography' to mean anything related to sex ed, gender, and LGBTQ people.

- These extremists claim that nearly everything taught in sex ed is 'pornography' or 'sexualization,' from the names of body parts, to conversations about consent, to basic information about how students can keep themselves safe. We've [written about this before](#).
- Their plan in Project 2025 is to make all pornography illegal (yes, really), which means, using their definitions, teaching sex ed will be against the law.

GETTING ORGANIZED: WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM AND SAVE SEX ED FOR EVERYONE?

Sex ed saves lives and builds healthy communities. When students learn sex ed together, they not only learn how to take care of themselves and build healthy relationships, they also become less likely to bully each other, they do better in their schoolwork, and they are more likely to help each other if someone is being bullied or abused. **We can't let them take it away.**

You're not alone in wanting to stop the extreme anti-sex ed policies proposed by the Project 2025 team. **The [majority of American voters](#) support sex ed.** Here are some great ways to start:

- **Vote for candidates up and down the ballot who support sex ed and reject Project 2025**
 - To stop Project 2025 in its tracks, we have to beat Trump, period. Congress will also have a big role to play, so Senate and House races matter a lot. And don't skip school board races!
 - Don't be fooled by what Trump and his pals say now that Project 2025 is [getting heat](#) - Trump's own plans are basically the same as Project 2025, just with fewer details. If [the folks behind Project 2025](#) support a candidate, you can bet they will put this plan into action if they're elected. Wherever and whenever you can, vote to defeat MAGA Republican candidates!
 - First step: make sure you're [registered to vote](#)!
 - Then take our [sex ed voter pledge](#), and we'll let you know when your school board elections are and how to vote for pro-sex ed candidates in your local community.

GETTING ORGANIZED: WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM AND SAVE SEX ED FOR EVERYONE?

- **Share this info with your friends and family**
 - Too many people still have never heard of Project 2025 and don't know how much is at stake in this election. Be sure to talk with people you know – those are the people most likely to trust you.
 - We made it easy! [Click this link](#) to be one of the first to try our new app that helps you reach people you know in just a few clicks.
- **Read our [guide](#) to speaking up for sex ed and check out our top pro-sex ed [messages](#).** We test all of these messages on hundreds of people, so we know they work against Project 2025 language like “pornography” and “sexualization.” If you prep now, you’ll be ready whenever the opportunity to speak up for sex ed arrives.
- **Learn how to speak out against Project 2025-style attacks** where you live by taking our [Passion2Power training](#).
- Got another idea for action? **Reach out to our Lead Organizer** Candace Hardnett (chardnett@educateusaction.org) to share it and see if we can help.

WHAT ELSE WILL MAGA REPUBLICANS DO IF THEY'RE ELECTED, ACCORDING TO PROJECT 2025?

To name just a few things (there are so many more):

- Get rid of the entire Department of Education
- End federal funding for schools in low-income communities
- Make it illegal for public school teachers to teach about race and racism
- Make it nearly impossible for anyone to get contraception or abortion care
- End all federal protections for LGBTQ people & make it criminal for us to be around children
- Bring back [a Trump administration rule](#) that makes it nearly impossible for survivors of sexual violence on campus to pursue justice
- and so on, and so on, and so on...

For more reading on Project 2025:

- [The People's Guide to Project 2025](#)
- [Project 2025 Explained](#) | Red Wine & Blue
- [Inside Project 2025's attack on reproductive rights](#) | [Media Matters for America](#)
- Or read it right from the source: [Project 2025 Mandate for Leadership](#)

CITATIONS

1. "Pornography, manifested today in the omnipresent propagation of transgender ideology and sexualization of children, for instance, is not a political Gordian knot inextricably binding up disparate claims about free speech, property rights, sexual liberation, and child welfare. It has no claim to First Amendment protection. Its purveyors are child predators and misogynistic exploiters of women. Their product is as addictive as any illicit drug and as psychologically destructive as any crime. Pornography should be outlawed. The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders." (p. 5)
2. "Work to pass a federal Parents' Bill of Rights that restores parental rights to a "top-tier" right. Such legislation would give families a fair hearing in court when the federal government enforces any policy against parents in a way that undermines their right and responsibility to raise, educate, and care for their children. The law would require the government to satisfy 'strict scrutiny'—the highest standard of judicial review—when the government infringes parental rights... The next Administration should work with Congress to amend FERPA and PPRA to provide parents and students over the age of 18 years with a private right of action to seek injunctive and declaratory relief, together with attorneys' fees and costs if a prevailing party, against educational institutions and agencies that violate rights enshrined in these statutes. This will empower parents and students, level the playing field between families and education bureaucracies, and encourage institutional compliance with these statutory requirements." (p. 344)
3. Project 2025 would have the President completely wipe sex ed from policy by abolishing the Gender Policy Council to "eliminate central promotion of abortion; comprehensive sexuality education; and the new woke gender ideology" and removing any references to "controversial sexual education materials" in the USAID Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. (p. 62, 259)
4. Project 2025 would restructure the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program and Personal Responsibility Education Program, saying risk "risk avoidance should be prioritized" in TPP and PREP programs and changing reporting standards to ensure programs "do not promote abortion or high-risk sexual behavior among adolescents." Project 2025 also calls on sex education programs under the Administration for Children and Families to abolish "any lists with 'approved curriculum' or so-called evidence-based lists," which it says "have given priority to sex-promotion textbooks" (p. 477)
5. Project 2025 directs the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, "in dealing with sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies... focus on root-cause analysis with a focus on strengthening marriage and sexual risk avoidance". The policy book also says the "Title X family planning program should be reframed with a focus on better education around fertility awareness and holistic family planning" (p. 490 - 491)
6. Project 2025 calls to use funding for the Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) Program to provide "state-level high school education resources and curriculum on healthy marriages, sexual risk avoidance, and healthy relationships." But what do the authors of Project 2025 mean by healthy marriage? For one, they say HMRE funding should go to faith programs "who affirm that marriage is between not just any two adults, but one man and one unrelated woman." They also say "for the sake of child well-being, programs should affirm that children require and deserve both the love and nurturing of a mother and the play and protection of a father" (p. 481)