



Building capacity for teen pregnancy prevention and youth development.



Teaching about Consent

Teachers and facilitators often ask us how to integrate messages about consent in their WA PREP implementations. Consent is an important topic that should be discussed with young people of [all ages](#).

In a survey of middle and high school students, nearly half reported experiencing [sexual harassment](#) at school—verbally, physically, or electronically. Many young people [have not talked to](#) their parents (61%) or educators (48%) about consent or healthy relationships, but say they want guidance from these adults.

Conversations about consent should start early. Although early refusal skills training can reduce the likelihood of sexual assault experiences in college, it is critical to focus on **preventing perpetration** of sexual harassment and assault. [The CDC](#) identifies a range of risk factors that play a prominent role in the perpetration of sexual violence, including **societal norms** that reinforce harmful gender stereotypes and excuse sexual violence.

[Highline School District](#) addressed this issue by surveying middle and high school students about their beliefs around consent. Staff used the responses to generate a social norms campaign to encourage students to talk and demonstrate that consent is highly valued within the Highline community.

Things You Can Do to Discuss Consent with Young People



Facilitate an [activity](#) in your classroom or group



Watch this [video](#) and debrief together



Add a statement that affirmative consent (a clear “yes”) is needed before for any sexual contact. *Repeat this message throughout your curriculum and beyond*



Support [parents](#) in their conversations with youth

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