

WISE Lessons Learned: Assessing and Building Capacity of Communities and Schools to Effectively Deliver Sexuality Education

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Mission

Improve organizations' abilities to deliver accessible, high quality, culturally proficient, and compassionate services to their clients

Objectives

- 1) Describe school and school district challenges to implementing comprehensive sexuality education.
- 2) Identify best practices and effective strategies in the implementation of sex education.
- 3) Describe the importance of building school/district capacity to ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of sex education programs.

About WISE

Working to Institutionalize Sex Education (WISE)

WISE aims to implement good state sex ed policy in a sustainable way in schools.



Goal



Increase the number of youth in public schools who have access to and receive CSE.

What is comprehensive sex education (CSE)?

- CSE is defined generally as education that addresses both abstinence and, at a minimum, age-appropriate, medically accurate information about contraception.

What is comprehensive sex education (CSE)?

- CSE is also developmentally appropriate, and may include additional information on topics such as healthy relationships, decision-making, assertiveness, and skill building to resist social/peer pressure, depending on grade-level.

What is CSE institutionalization?

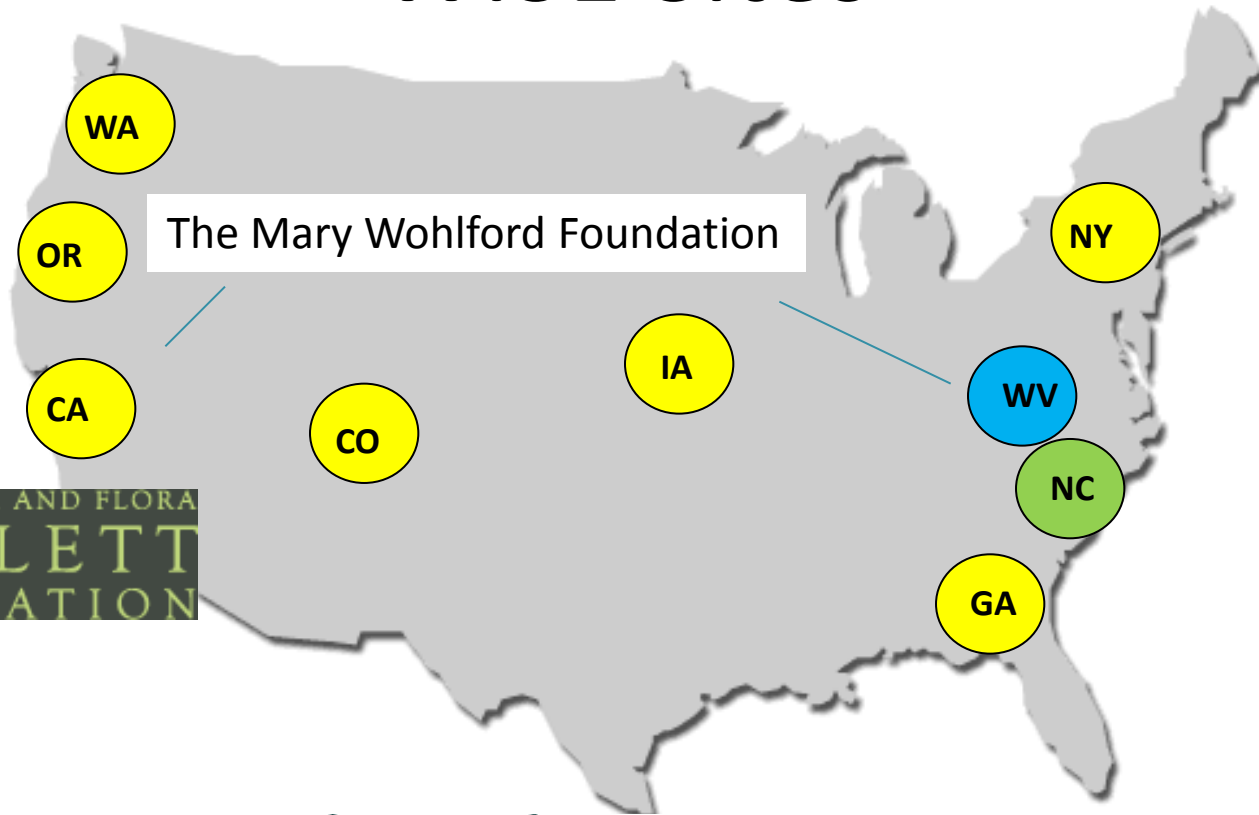
- When it becomes established as a convention or norm.
- Necessary supports (e.g., policy, community, human resource, financial, etc.) exist to sustain CSE instruction over time.

WISE Strategies

- 1) Focus on school-based sex ed
- 2) Go for institutionalization



WISE Sites



THE WILLIAM AND FLORA
HEWLETT
FOUNDATION



the David & Lucile
Packard
FOUNDATION

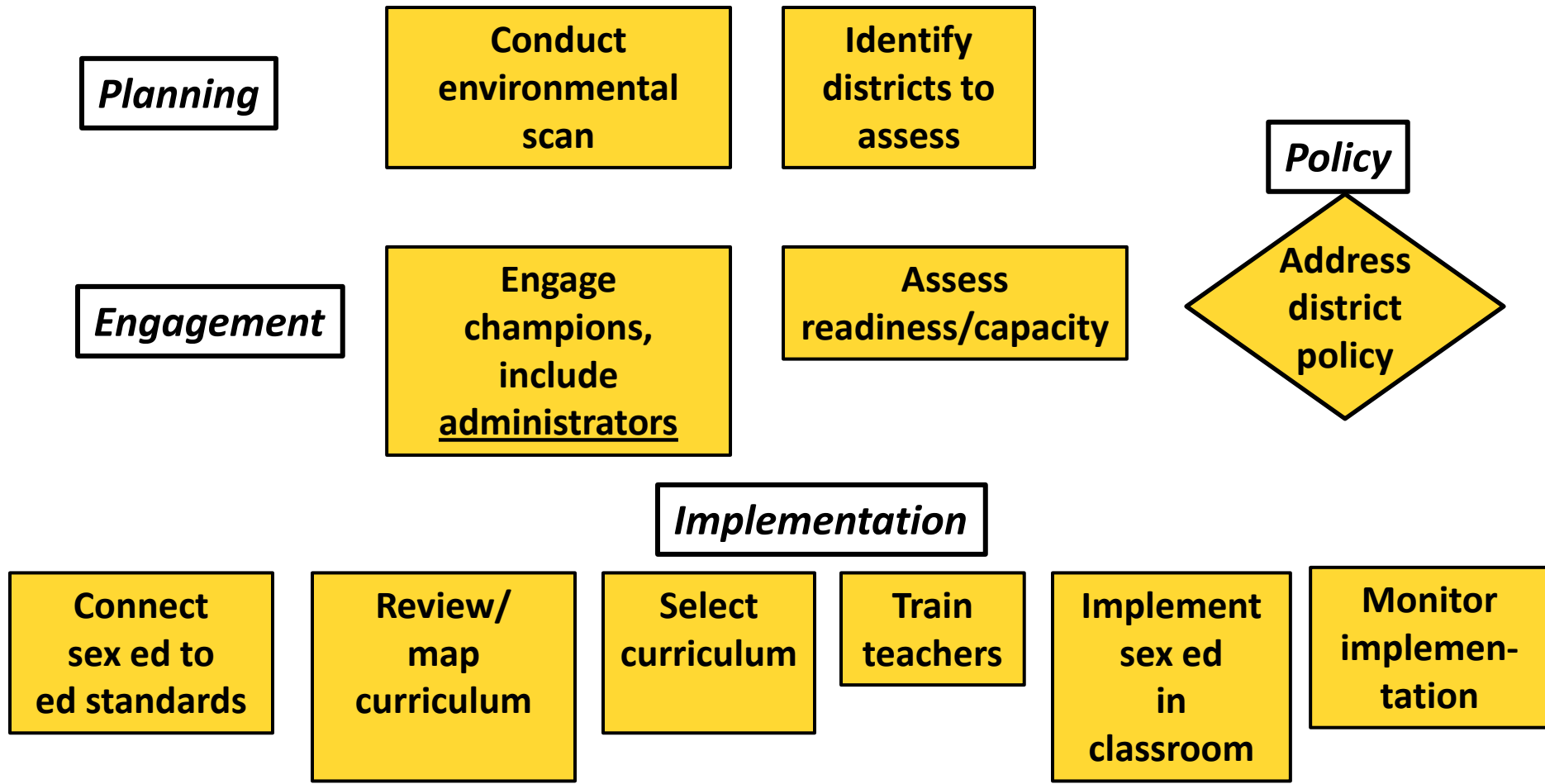


FORD FOUNDATION

Lessons Learned...Early

- Knowing how to work with schools is critical
- Each state has a unique infrastructure that can be leveraged
- Coordination with DASH, whenever possible, increases success
- Yes, there is a method and it can be learned and diffused

“The WISE Method”



The WISE Method Toolkit

***A practical framework and reference document
to support the institutionalization of
comprehensive sex education in public***

The CSE Institutionalization Process

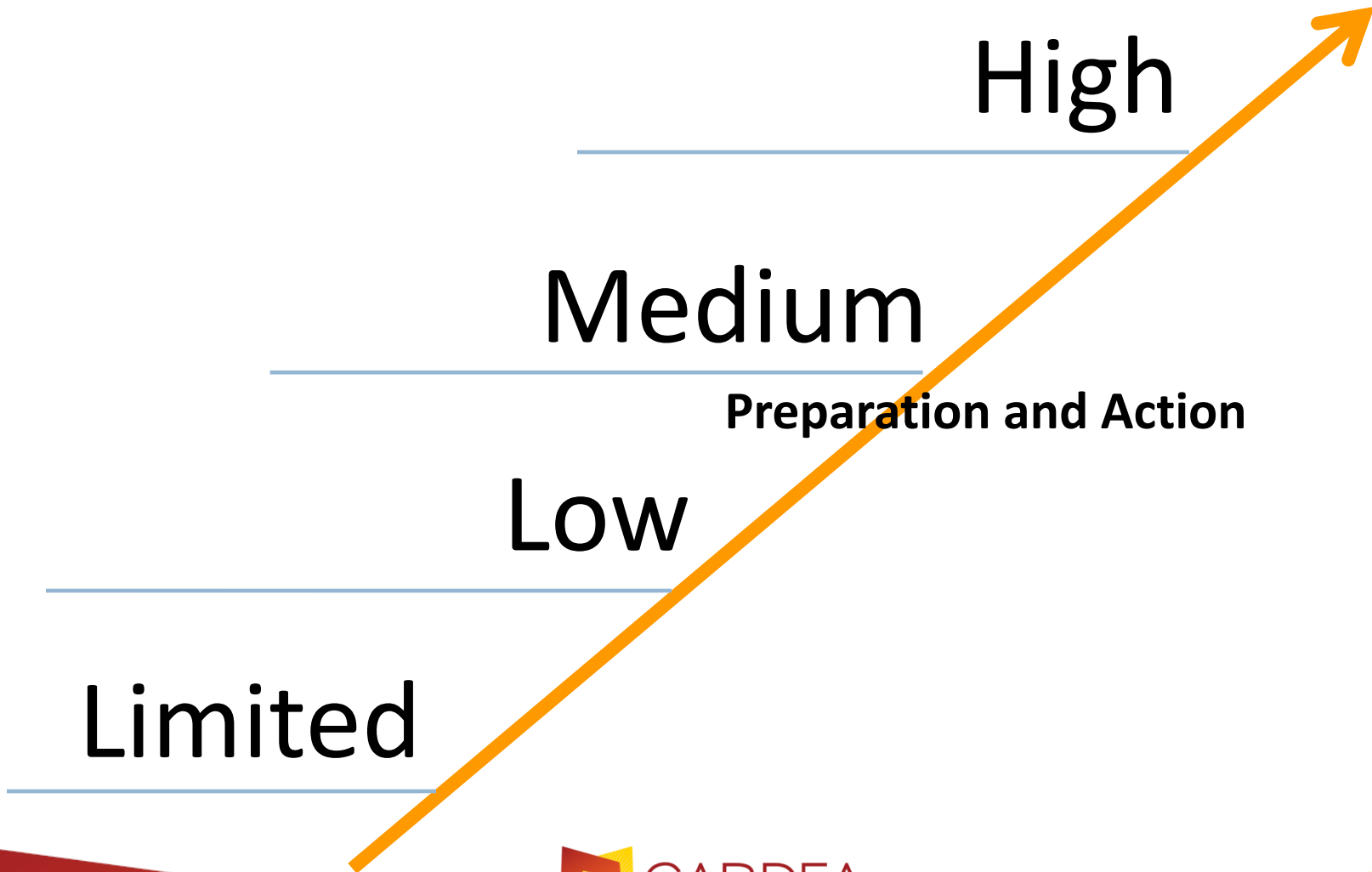
Five phases:

- **Phase 1:** Planning and Environmental Scan
- **Phase 2:** School District Engagement
- **Phase 3:** Community Awareness and Mobilization
- **Phase 4:** School District Policy
- **Phase 5:** CSE Implementation

Capacity Assessment Tool

- Who makes the curriculum decisions in your district?
- Does the school/district have any teacher training requirements for teaching sexual health?
- Is there a written policy that governs your sexual health education program (K-12)?
- Are there any topics that teachers are not allowed to discuss?
- Are parents informed they may opt their child out of parts or all of the sexual health education curriculum?
- What barriers, if any, does your district face in improving sexual health education in your district?

WA WISE Approach: Staging



TA & Training Provided

- Align curricula with HYA & WA State Guidelines
- Establish Sexual Health Policy
- Choose Curricula
- Adapt Curricula
- Community Buy In
- Create Sustainability Plans
- Assess Community Attitudes





DISTRICT A: >> PRE-CONTEMPLATION

Community Mobilization



DISTRICT B: >> CONTEMPLATION

Intense TA and Policy Adoption



DISTRICT C: >> ACTION

TA and Training

What does successful completion of conducting a planning and environmental scan look like?

- Understanding of **state and district CSE policies** and how they can or cannot be leveraged
- Understanding of the **funding landscape** and opportunities to leverage resources to support CSE implementation efforts
- A capable set of **partners** is engaged and working together on institutionalizing CSE
- A **list of school districts** or schools is developed for initial assessment

How do planning and environmental scan processes sustain and thrive?

- Create **linkages** between relevant state and local programs
- Consider a partnership with your state's Division of Adolescent School Health (**DASH**) HIV/AIDS coordinator.

What is the community awareness and mobilization phase and why is it important?

- **Leverage** existing relationships to identify districts for assessing readiness.
- **Focus** planning and environmental scan activities on **critical areas** rather than the “nice to haves.”

What does successful completion of school district engagement look like?

- It is **not** necessary to implement CSE **simultaneously** in all participating districts.
- Districts that are **not ready** for CSE implementation should **not be targeted** for participation.
- Do not apply a “**one size fits all**” approach.
- Do not **rely** on one person to “carry the water.”

What does successful completion of school district policy look like?

- School district leadership and CSE implementers understand **state policies** affecting the teaching of CSE
- School district leadership and CSE implementers review and **understand** existing **district policies** affecting the teaching of CSE
- District policy is either affirmed or updated to **comply with state law** and/or bolster CSE

How does school district policy sustain and thrive?

- Monitor and evaluate **adherence** to CSE policy.
- Incorporate **CSE responsibilities into key job descriptions**, establishing a basis of accountability.
- Include **policy provisions for minimum, ongoing professional development** requirements.
- Include **CSE as a graduation requirement** (or a required component of a health education requirement) to position CSE as an important academic component.

What does successful completion of CSE implementation look like?

- Districts and schools **select, adopt, and implement** CSE curriculum
- Teachers receive **CSE instruction** and can access ongoing training, resources, and/or professional development
- Students receive high-quality CSE in classrooms **across multiple grade levels**

How does CSE implementation sustain and thrive in schools?

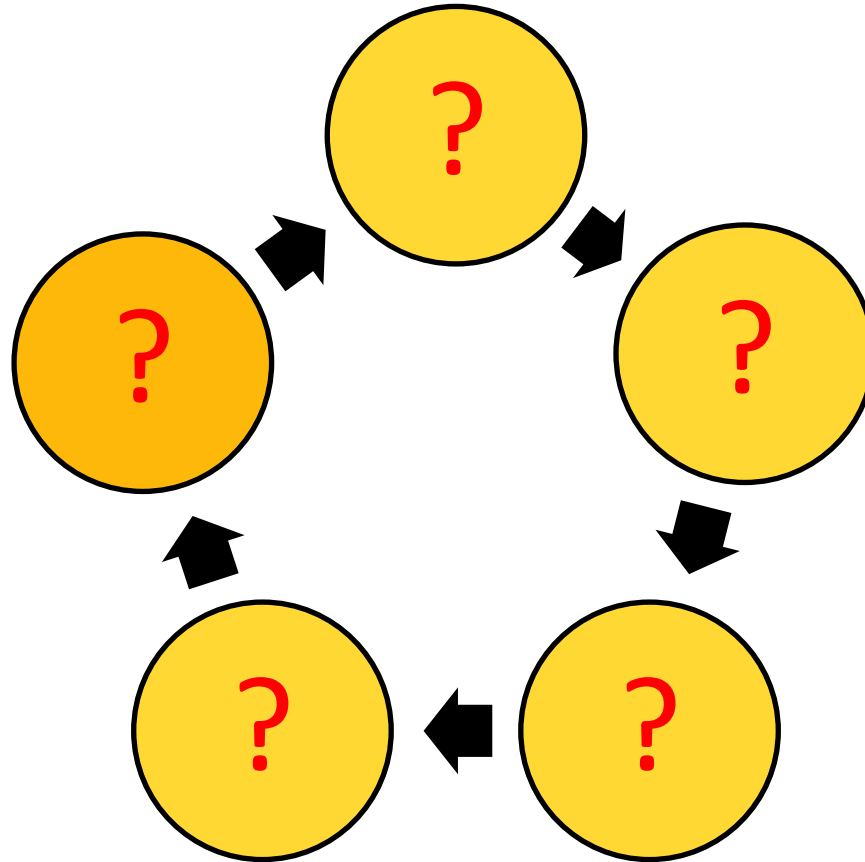
- Establish **quality improvement and quality assurance processes** to ensure ongoing, high-quality implementation of CSE.
- Develop a **cadre of trainers** within the district to build capacity and support for teaching CSE and to reduce the need for external trainers
- Ensure **dedicated funding** to support future curriculum purchases and ongoing professional development

What schools/districts are saying...

“WISE project has brought the 4 C’s to our sexual health education program – content, consistency, connection, and confidence.” (Superintendent)

“It (readiness assessment) laid the ground work because it gave us a picture of where we were, where we wanted to go and what gaps existed” (School District)

Questions?



Contact

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