Identifying Solutions to School-Based Prevention Programming Resistance

Objective: To disseminate key insights, resources, and ideas discussed during the Prevent Connect town hall focused on addressing resistance to school-based prevention programming. Additionally, to invite further discussion and collaboration including sharing standout resources, additional tips, and relevant tools applicable to both school-based and nightlife prevention efforts.

Standout Resources and Discussion Points:

- Expanding Beyond Schools:
    - Encouragement to engage young people in out-of-school spaces such as social media, afterschool programs, parks, libraries, summer camps, churches, nonprofits, and youth leadership groups.
    - Suggestions to use funds to involve young people/community in advisory groups, internships, peer education, or health promoter programs.

- Frame Community Safety:
    - Guidance on communicating about community safety and violence prevention using positive, practical, and plain language.
    - Highlight of polling data showing strong support for sex education, consent education, healthy relationships, and sexual orientation education. For example, a majority of parents and the public overwhelmingly support sex education (93%) and education on consent (96%), healthy relationships (96%), and sexual orientation (79%). Note: see the links for more details -- these percentages are for high school and from 2018 (as always, we want to be mindful of the data we reference).

- Be a Myth Buster:
    - Several of the speakers discussed the pervasiveness of myths about LGBTQ+ people and communities. Share the facts. Research consistently shows LGBTQ+ people are no more likely to enact sexual violence than heterosexual or cisgender people. Read more: *Fighting Anti-LGBTQ+ Grooming Rhetoric* Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

For questions, please feel free to reach out the New York State Sexual Violence Prevention Training Center here: https://caiglobal.org/svp

- Use Plain & Shared Language:
  - Importance of code-switching and tailoring messages to different audiences, focusing on shared values and interests.
  - Read more and see other strategies: *Tools to Address School-Based Programming Barrier*, Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

- Understand & Learning Standards:
  - Utilization of learning standards to build relationships with educators and align programming with educational expectations.
  - Here are the learning standards for New York by subject area. You may also consider referencing learning standards recommended by experts related to Social Emotional Learning and National Sexuality Education Standards.

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