5 Tips

To Create Safer Schools For LGBTQ+ Students

Anti-Bullying Policies

LGBTQ+ students in schools with fully inclusive anti-bullying policies in place are less likely to experience harassment and more likely to advocate for themselves if they do.

An effective anti-bullying policy will state that all bullying incidents are to be reported and hold staff responsible to intervene and stop all forms of bullying and harrassment.

GSA Clubs

GSA Clubs (Gender-Sexuality Alliance Clubs) are student led clubs for LGBTQ+ and straight students that can provide a space for students to exchange information, find or offer support, socialize, discuss concerns, and organize events to raise awareness.

The presence of GSA clubs proves to have a positive effect on the health, wellness, and academic performance of all students.

Safe Spaces

Safe spaces are created when staff and educators let their LGBTQ+ students know they are an ally by displaying a visible sign of support. Hanging a rainbow flag or a safe space poster or sticker on a door, in an office or a classroom can accomplish this. Research shows that just knowing there is a supportive educator or staff member at school can help LGBTQ+ students feel better and safer about being in school

Fully Inclusive Environments

LGBTQ+ students who go to schools with fully inclusive environments experience less harasment and have more positive outcomes.

Some things that fully inclusive school environments would include:

* Allow students access to bathrooms, locker rooms and other gender-specific spaces that best match their gender identity

* Allow students to play on sports teams and join clubs that best match their gender identity

* Utilize academic curriculum that includes LGBTQ+ perspectives, voices, histories and current events.

* Provide LGBTQ+ inclusive health & sexuality education

* Use student's chosen names and correct pronouns

Train Educators and Staff

Train educators and staff to:

* Know about LGBTQ+ student experiences in school

* Use chosen names and correct pronouns

* Be aware of anti-LGBTQ+ behavior in schools and intervene when bullying occurs

* Utilize LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum

* Advocate for the rights of LGBTQ+ students

* Understand LGBTQ+ terminology

* Provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students