




# 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 harassment.




### Fully Inclusive Environments

LGBTQ+ students who go to schools with fully inclusive environments experience less harassment 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



### 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.



### 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



### 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

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