

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFE: CHANGING THE CLIMATE

General Resources

Making Schools Safe. A model training workshop designed for organizations interested in promoting school safety to help them work with educators to combat anti-gay harassment in local schools. ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project: www.aclu.org.

"Every Student, Every School." Information, assistance and tools for rural communities and small towns to use to make schools safer for LGBT youth. ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project: www.aclu.org.

"Establishing an Allies Programs." The Human Rights Campaign provides information on starting an allies project to help create a safer school environment. www.hrc.org.

Making Schools Safe for Students: Creating a Proactive School Safety Plan. Corwin Press, May, 1999 revised July, 2000. Available through www.safeschools.org.

"Bullying Prevention." A resource page including definitions, myths; bullying prevention tips for students, for parents, and for schools; model legislation, fact sheets and links. Safe Schools/ Safe Communities from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (U. of Colorado, Boulder): www.colorado.edu.

"Transgender Equality." Defines and describes transgender terms and issues; discusses the ways sexual orientation and gender identity overlap and differ; examines the role of gender variance in homophobia and anti-gay violence; provides information on efforts to achieve basic legal protections for transgendered people; and suggests strategies for advancing inclusive anti-discrimination, safe schools, and hate-crimes legislation. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: www.nglft.org.

Resources for Youth

Adding Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity to Discrimination & Harassment Policies in School: Questions & Answers. ACLU & GLSEN: Available through www.glsen.org.

Resource Center for starting a Gay-straight alliance. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

Day of Silence Project. An international event in which a growing number of schools participate, designed to raise awareness and protest the silence faced by LGBT people, and offer tools with which to end the silence: www.dayofsilence.org.

"Delete Discrimination." Powerful FREE guide to empower young people to fight discrimination in their local communities and in themselves. Rock the Vote: www.rockthevote.org

"Ideas for LGBT History Month." GLSEN's web site contains a list of 15 actions students and teachers can take to promote LGBT History Month, as well as a list of books, films and web resources with information on LGBT history. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

"SIGNS School Survival Guide." A resource center for youth to create a safer school environment, start a Gay-Straight Alliance, and get information from other students. A project of the New York LGBT Community Center's Youth Enrichment Services: www.centeryes.org/SIGNS.

Resources for Parents & Communities

"Our House to the School House: A Recipe for Safe Schools." An on-line kit of information and resources for helping to make schools safer. PFLAG: www.pflag.org.

The GLSEN Workbook (2001) A tool for measuring, describing, and improving an individual school's climate with regard to LGBT people and issues. The Workbook also includes detailed descriptive information and direct action organizing tools that guide members through the process of creating concrete changes in the lives of students. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

"Local School Climate Survey (School-based Version)." A survey that can be used to assess the climate for LGBT students within a particular school. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

"A Family's Guide To Handling Anti-Gay Harassment," a guide from The Safe Schools Coalition: www.safeschoolscoalition.org.

Resources for Teachers and Administrators

GLSEN's Resource Center provides several important guides to help educate and create a safer school climate (see www.glsen.org):

- Checklist for what educators can do to help create a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.
- Checklist for coaches who want to help create an LGBT-inclusive team environment.
- Testimonials about "How Heterosexual People Are Affected by Anti-LGBT Bias."
- "Homophobia 101: Anti-homophobia Training Outline For School Staff And Students."

The GLSEN Lunchbox: A Comprehensive Training Program for Ending Anti-Gay Bias in Schools (2000). A comprehensive training program that offers a menu of exercises and activities aimed at providing educators with the background knowledge, skills and tools necessary to build awareness of LGBT issues and develop more inclusive school environments. The training program is aimed at teachers, guidance staff, and administrators in K-12 schools, but is also appropriate for professionals and family/community members who have a vested interest in youth safety. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

Ending Anti-Gay Bias in Schools: A Training of Trainers Manual (2001). A companion to GLSEN's Lunchbox, this provides educators and activists with a resource for preparing new facilitators to conduct anti-bias workshops in their local communities. GLSEN: www.glsen.org.

"Bully Proof: A Teacher's Guide on Teasing and Bullying for Use with Fourth and Fifth Grade Students." A curriculum developed by the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women and the National Education Association designed to help teachers address the issue of bullying and name-calling. National Education Association, 202-822-7732, www.nea.org.

Open Minds to Equality: A Sourcebook of Learning Activities to Affirm Diversity and Promote Equality (1997). eds. Nancy Schniedewind and Ellen Davidson. This is a practical book for teachers for building multi-cultural, gender-fair classrooms and for teaching students about both discrimination and approaches to equality. Grounded in theory but fully accessible to teachers, the book's first two chapters explain the need for equitable classrooms, and the remaining chapters provide activities with full-size worksheets for use with children. Available through www.glsen.org.

Safe Schools Manual (2000). Created by Out for Equity/Out4Good of St. Paul and Minneapolis, This comprehensive manual has recently been distributed to all public schools K-12 in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. It is a collection of materials and resources to aid educators and other staff members in combating homophobia and developing safer, more inclusive school climates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. Available through www.glsen.org.

Tackling Gay Issues in Schools: A Resource Module (1999). A Publication of GLSEN Connecticut & Planned Parenthood of CT, ed. by Leif Mitchell. This comprehensive resource module includes a rationale for the inclusion of LGBT issues in school, recommended curriculum and staff development activities, resource lists and more. Tackling Gay Issues in Schools is an invaluable resource for educators, administrators, counselors, trainers and all others working to create safe and inclusive school environments. Tackling Gay Issues is now available in Spanish (Abordando La Tematica; translated by Nila Marrone) with a special appendix including Spanish specific information. Available through www.glsen.org.

"Bruised Inside, What Our Children Say about Youth Violence, What Causes It, and What We Should Do About It." A report, available online, from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG): www.naag.org.

Challenging Homophobia in Schools: A K-12 resource (2000). By the Gay and Lesbian Educators of British Columbia, this packet offers K-12 resources for educators, counselors and administrators to aid in the support of, and education about, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and families. It includes rationales for why LGBT materials belong in the classroom, background on a variety of oft-used terms and concepts, lesson plans, and a list of resources, complete with ordering forms. Available through www.glsen.org.

SAFE SCHOOLS RESOURCES: ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project

212-549-2627, Contact: Chris Hampton, www.aclu.org

Civil rights organization focusing on LGBT issues. Resources for students and teachers; Model safe schools and anti-discrimination policies; creating Gay-Straight Alliances and why schools need to treat them equally.

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

202-879-4434, Contact: Human Rights & Community Relations, www.aft.org

National teachers union provides, among other resources, links to LGBT educational information, history, and lesson plans.

Bisexual Resource Center

617-424-9595, brc@biresource.org, www.biresource.org

Educates the public and organizations about bisexuality and provides an information and support network.

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)

415-861-5437, Contact: Beth Teper, www.colage.org

Aids children of LGBT parents by providing education, support and community; advocates for rights.

The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

212-727-0135, Contact: John Denison, www.glsen.org

Works to end anti-gay bigotry by teaching respect for all in public, private, parochial K-12 schools.

Hetrick Martin Institute for Lesbian and Gay Youth & The Harvey Milk School

212-674-2400, Contact: Lenette Dorman, www.hmi.org

Alternative schools serving LGBT students; website provides resources serving LGBT youth.

Human Rights Campaign

202-628-4160, Contact: David Smith, www.hrc.org

General information about how to act and legislate against discrimination toward LGBT people. Provides information on starting an allies program in local schools and communities.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

212-809-8585, Contact: Eric Ferrero, www.lambdalegal.org

Civil rights litigation organization working to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of LGBT people. Provides suggestions for changing school policy and state law to help better protect youth, as well as steps students and parents can take when a child has been harassed in school.

Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC)

415-703-6150, Contact: Tracy Boggs, www.lyric.org

Works to counter effects of homophobia on GLBT youth; to empower them through peer-based recreational, educational, and leadership development opportunities.

Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth

617-727-3600 x312, www.state.ma.us/gcgly/

Publishes a series of ground-breaking reports available to the public.

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

415.392.6257, Contact: Courtney Joslin, www.nclrights.org

National legal rights and education organization staffs a toll-free youth legal information line and provides resources on building safe school environments, with a special focus on LGBT youth in sports.

National Education Association (NEA)

202 822-7200, Contact: NEA Communications, www.nea.org

This National professional organization provides a set of recommendations and resources to enhance programs designed to help foster an environment of respect and safety in America's public schools.

National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)

202-319-7596, Contact: Craig Bowman, www.nyacyouth.org

Addresses public policy issues related to GLBT youth in collaboration with national and community organizations; distributes resources.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

202-467-8180, Contact: Heather Wright, www.pflag.org

Brochure for Educators: Families and Educators Partnering for Safe Schools.

List of Potential Coalition Partners (National organizations with chapters)

Tips for Education Professionals to Halt Anti-Gay Harassment

Youth Serving Professional Associations Positions On Sexual Orientation

The Safe Schools Coalition

206-632-0662 x49, Contact: Frieda Takamura 253-765-7062,

www.safeschoolscoalition.org

The Safe Schools Coalition offers resources as a starting point for educators, parents/guardians and youth. Bibliography of resources to help youth, educators, administrators, and parents end bullying and create safe school environments for LGBT youth. Resources such as hotlines for LGBT youth experiencing harassment.

Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)

202-546-5940, Contact: Arthur Padilla, www.smyal.org

A youth service agency supporting sexual minority youth and educating the public.

U.S. Department of Education

800-USA-LEARN, Contact: Office of Civil rights, www.ed.gov

Published guide available on the web called, "Protecting Students from Harassment and Hate Crimes," including model policies that include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation.