
We know that LGBTQ+ youth and families need the support of allies to be able to be who they are and love who they love without fearing discrimination, harassment, or violence in school or in the community.

By taking steps to educate others and visibly support LGBTQ+ youth and their rights, allies can play a critical role in stopping and even preventing harassment and discrimination against youth, ensuring that schools and out-of-home care settings are safe for everyone.

BEST PRACTICES

Set classroom and school climate from the first day, making it known that homophobic and transphobic language and behavior will not be tolerated- along with any other type of language or behavior that bullies or harasses students based on their race, class, ethnicity, religion, national status, language of origin, differences in physical or mental abilities, etc.

- Model respect for LGBTQ+ youth and adults by using their affirmed names and pronouns.
- Don't make assumptions about people's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Support any student who wants to come out or let you in. Ask them what they need and how you can best support them.
- Respond to anti-LGBTQ+ behavior swiftly and peacefully.
- Share that you are an Ally with other educators and support staff.
- Ensure that students are able to access the restroom that aligns with their gender identity.
- Respect the confidentiality of LGBTQ+ students- especially transgender students.
- Request inclusive curriculum that covers LGBTQ+ people and issues for the school library and to include in your course material.
- Celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month and the Day Of Silence.
- Advocate for students to be able to bring a date of their choice, regardless of gender, to school dances/proms.
- Wear or display LGBTQ+ supportive lanyards, buttons, stickers, and a warm smile to express your support for students and their families.

CONSIDER BEING A GSA ADVISOR OR CO-ADVISOR!

GSA used to stand for "Gay/Straight Alliance" and is now widely referred to as "Gender and Sexuality Alliance" as to be more inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

Research shows that when a GSA is present in schools- harassment and assault decreases, while the level of school connectedness increases.

(If you are unsure of your district policies, please reach out to us at Equality Florida or your district student support services team to review policies and procedures.)

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