

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER: Bullying Prevention

Expanding Partnerships and Disseminating HIV Prevention Materials to Reduce HIV and other STDs among Adolescents through National Non-Governmental Organizations (PS16-1603) Newsletter

FEATURED BLOGS

SCHOOL-BASED APPROACHES TO BULLYING PREVENTION

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October is National Bullying Prevention Month, a perfect time to think about anti-bullying practices in schools. As a former school teacher, I remember how important the beginning of the year can be to setting up your classroom community. Now, in my role at GLSEN as the Education Manager, I get emails and messages every day from educators across the country asking how to support their students and address bullying and harassment.

Many of our supports are developed from our research on school climate. Our [2015 National School Climate Survey](#) reported on the school experiences of LGBTQ youth including the extent of the challenges that they face at school and the school-based resources that support their well-being. This report found that anti-LGBTQ harassment and discrimination negatively affected the educational outcomes of LGBTQ youth, as well as their mental health.

In addition, [From Teasing to Torment: School Climate Revisited](#), reports on the school experiences of all students to provide an in-depth look at the current landscape of bias and peer victimization across the nation. From this report we were able to determine that, compared to their non-LGBTQ peers, LGBTQ students are

twice as likely to have missed school in the past month due to feeling unsafe or uncomfortable.

It's important that the adults in school systems take a proactive approach to bullying and harassment by setting up a culture of LGBTQ visibility and support. Based on the research, we recommend four major supports that schools can use to cultivate a safe and supportive environments:

Enumerated Policies

Anti-bullying policies that are comprehensive and specifically include protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression can help in addressing and preventing bullying and harassment. Check out [GLSEN's model policies](#) for some examples.

Supportive Educators

As GLSEN's Education Manager, I'm constantly meeting and hearing about educators who are doing all they can to support their students. We are constantly teaching, in what we say and what we don't say, in the people we include in our lessons and the stories we share. Having educators advocating for LGBTQ youth and amplifying their messages can take some of the burden off LGBTQ youth. Educators can use our [Safe Space Kit](#) for information and tips for how to become an active ally to LGBTQ youth.

Student-Led Clubs

GSAs (gender-sexuality alliance type clubs) often advocate for improved school climate, educate the larger school community about LGBTQ issues, and support LGBTQ students and their allies. LGBTQ students need a safe space where they can be themselves and feel a sense of community. GSA type-clubs can be this space, and can also center youth activism to continue to make change in a school. You can find GSA activities and ideas on [our website](#).

Inclusive Curriculum

In any subject, having LGBTQ visibility and inclusion in your lessons and being mindful of gender-neutral language can be a tremendous support. LGBTQ students in schools with an LGBTQ-Inclusive curriculum were less likely to miss school in the past month (18.6% compared to 35.6%, National School Climate Survey, 2015). Inclusive curriculum ensures that LGBTQ students see themselves reflected in the lessons they are being taught, and also creates opportunities for all students to gain a more complex and authentic understanding of the world around them. Overall, inclusive curriculum can contribute to a safer school climate.

Implementing these four supports in K-12 schools can help to address and prevent bullying and harassment and work towards cultivating a school environment where all students feel welcome and ready to learn.

RESOURCES

THINKB4YOUSPEAK [GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS OF GRADES 6-12 - PROVIDED BY GLSEN](#)

"That's so gay." Research shows that slurs like this one are incredibly common in our schools. The crazy part? Most students don't mean to hurt anyone's feelings – they're just using everyday words and phrases. But as we know, they may be just three little words, but their power to hurt is huge. In order to address this unintentional-but-all-too-frequent harassment, GLSEN has partnered with [The Ad Council](#) to create the first national multimedia PSA campaign to raise awareness among teens and adults about the power their words have to hurt. With knowledge and a simple call to think before speaking, we hope to cut down and prevent the use of homophobic language in our schools.

GLSEN SAFE SPACE KIT

Designed to help you create a safe space for LGBTQ youth in schools, this [Safe Space Kit](#) is GLSEN's Guide to Being an Ally to LGBTQ Students. The guide provides concrete strategies that will help you support LGBTQ students, educate about anti-LGBTQ bias and advocate for changes in your school. For more information about the Safe Space Kit, click [here](#).

GENDER INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS TOOL KIT - PROVIDED BY GENDER SPECTRUM

Gender inclusive schools and classrooms welcoming all children and teens are within any school community's reach with our education focused resources.

GLSEN NATIONAL SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

The [GLSEN National School Climate Survey \(pdf\)](#) is our flagship report on the school experiences of LGBTQ youth in schools, including the extent of the challenges that they face at school and the school-based resources that support LGBTQ students' well-being. The survey has consistently indicated that specific school-based supports are related to a safer and more inclusive school climate, including: supportive educators, LGBT-inclusive curriculum, comprehensive anti-bullying policies, and supportive student clubs, such as Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs).

BULLYING RESOURCES FROM THE CDC

As bullying remains a serious problem among teens in the U.S., the CDC has developed a number of resources to help local education agencies better understand, prevent, and respond to bullying in their schools; some of which include: [Understanding Bullying](#), [Anti-Bullying Policies and Enumeration](#), [Bullying and Absenteeism](#)

BULLYING AND LGBT YOUTH

Visit www.Stopbullying.gov to learn more about:

- [Creating a Safe Environment for LGBT Youth](#)
- [Federal Civil Rights Laws and Sexual Orientation](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

HEALTHY TEEN NETWORK CONFERENCE : SOCIAL NORMS & CULTURE: HONORING EXPERIENCES & PERSPECTIVES

Date & Location: October 2-4 in Baltimore, MD - Click [here](#) to register!

Poster: Sustainable Support: Building Partnerships between Education Agencies and Public Health Partners to Improve Adolescent Sexual Health, presented by Samantha Ritter, MPH (NACCHO), Brittany McBride, MPH (Advocates for Youth), and Lillian Pinto (NCSD) from 3:00PM-5:00PM on Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

This poster will describe the innovative process of developing a partnership to support community capacity and organizational infrastructure to advance adolescent access to sexual health education, sexual health services, and safe and supportive environments.

Workshop: Serving the Individual: An Exploration of High Quality Sexual Health Education and Safe and Supportive Environments by Youth Experts, a presentation by Brittany McBride, MPH (Advocates for Youth) at 10:45AM-12:15PM on Tuesday October 3, 2017.

The workshop is designed for youth-serving professionals to further develop skills that enhance their work by analyzing the impact social determinants of health play in the overall sexual health of youth. A panel of youth experts will provide insight on how the four levels of the Social Ecological model: individual, relationship, community, and society, play a role in the delivery of high quality sexual health education and safe and supportive environments. Participants will engage in small/large group discussions, interactive activities, and directly communicate with the panel to apply the content from the presentation in their current practices.

ASHA 2017 SCHOOL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Date & Location: October 11-13 in St. Louis, MO - Click [here](#) to register!

Poster: Sustainable Support: Building Partnerships between Education Agencies and Public Health Partners to Improve Adolescent Sexual Health, presented by Samantha Ritter, MPH (NACCHO) from 12:30PM-1:30PM on Friday, October 13, 2017.

This poster will describe the innovative process of developing a partnership to support community capacity and organizational infrastructure to advance adolescent access to sexual health education, sexual health services, and safe and supportive environments.

EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Date & Location: February 15-17, 2018 in Nashville, TN.

Registration for the [School Superintendents Association \(AASA\)](#) annual conference is now open!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

WEBINAR: LGBTQ INCLUSIVITY IN SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Presenters: Nora Gelperin and Brittany McBride – Advocates for Youth

Health education curricula to reduce HIV/STDs in young people should be inclusive for all students. Advocates for Youths' Rights, Respect, Responsibility (3Rs) endeavors to be the first K-12 curriculum that affirms LGBTQ youth and teaches the respect and dignity that all young people deserve. Please join Advocates for Youth for the LGBTQ Inclusivity and Sexual Health Education webinar on Wednesday, September 20th from 1- 2 pm EST. Upon completion of the webinar, attendees will be able to explain why inclusive sexual health education is critical for LGBTQ youth, provide strategies to adapt lesson plans to make them more inclusive for LGBTQ youth, and highlight unique features regarding inclusivity of the Rights, Respect, Responsibility (3Rs) curriculum. Click [here](#) to access a video recording of the webinar.

