

HOW TO BE AN ALLY FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS

▼ **Listen.** If a student comes to talk to you about being harassed, depressed, or having parental challenges, keep in mind that you may be the only person they feel safe speaking to. ▼ **Respect confidentiality.** Allies will respect their students' confidentiality and privacy- FERPA reminds us to do so. Assume they only told you and just want you to know, unless they indicate otherwise. ▼ **Be conscious of your biases.** Acknowledge how homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism may affect your efforts to be an effective ally. ▼ **Seek out knowledge.** Effective allies will periodically brush up on LGBTQ-related language, as well as current issues facing the LGBTQ community. ▼ **Be a resource.** An effective ally will also know when and how to refer students to outside help. The websites below include LGBTQ-related resources and referral sources for LGBTQ youth. -GLSEN

GLSEN

glsen.org/gsa

National organization focused on ensuring safe and affirming schools, through policy, lesson plans, and professional development focused on LGBTQ issues

Lambda Legal

lambdalegal.org

Legal organization focused on impact litigation, education, and policy briefings related to LGBTQ civil rights

PFLAG

pflag.org

National organization working directly with families to ensure acceptance and support of their LGBTQ child, through support groups and parenting resources

Gender Spectrum

genderspectrum.org

National organization that provides health and mental health support, resources, and tools to better understand gender identity and support transgender students

National Association of School Psychologists Position Statement

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) believes school psychologists are ethically obligated to ensure all youth with diverse sexual **orientations**, **gender identities**, and/or **gender expressions**, are able to develop and express their personal identities in a school climate that is safe, accepting, and respectful of all persons and free from discrimination, harassment, violence, and abuse. Specifically, NASP's ethical guidelines require school psychologists to promote fairness and justice, help to cultivate safe and welcoming school climates, and work to identify and reform both social and system-level patterns of injustice (NASP, 2010, pp. 11–12). NASP further asserts all youth are entitled to equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from affirming and supportive educational and mental health services within schools. nasponline.org

National Psychological Association Policy Statement

Whereas the American Psychological Association (APA) opposes prejudice and discrimination based on demographic characteristics including **gender identity**, therefore be it further resolved that APA supports efforts to provide safe and secure educational environments, at all levels of education, as well as foster care environments and juvenile justice programs, that promote an understanding and acceptance of self and in which all youths, including youth of all **gender identities** and **expressions**, may be free from discrimination, harassment, violence, and abuse. apa.org

Critical LGBTQ Competency Resource:

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/programs/safe-supportive/lgbt/default.aspx>

Having staff supportive of LGBTQ students was related to youth feeling safer and missing fewer days in school. -GLSEN

trevorproject.org

Suicide prevention services and intervention for LGBTQ youth. Free 24/7/365 crisis phone service.
1-866-488-7386

Contact Us

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