



School Social Worker LGBTQ Competency Resources

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

School Social Work Association of America Resolution Statement

SSWAA believes the school social worker should serve as an advocate for **GLBTQ** youth on an individual basis, in the classroom, school wide, and within the school district. GLBTQ youth have the right to expect school social workers will be knowledgeable about issues regarding **sexual identification** and will respect and support students as they articulate issues and concerns. SSWAA believes all school personnel should be trained to recognize signs of bullying toward all students, and **GLBTQ** students in particular. SSWAA believes the school social worker must play an integral part in ensuring the school environment is a safe and respectful place for every student to learn and thrive. sswaa.org

National Association of Social Workers Position Statement

Social workers must advocate against policy or practice interventions that create or reinforce the prejudice and discrimination towards **gay** men, **lesbians**, **bisexual**, and **transgender** persons and their families. Social workers are obligated to use nonjudgmental attitudes and to encourage nurturing practice environments for **lesbians**, **gay** men, **bisexual**, and **transgender** persons. naswdc.org

Critical LGBTQ Competency Resource:

<http://sswaa.site-ym.com/?page=637>

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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