

Make it Better: Preventing and Addressing Anti-Gay Bullying and Violence

It's not just a gay issue:

Any student can be a victim: 4 out of 5 targets of anti-gay name calling and harassment identify as heterosexual.

Anti-gay bullying has played a significant role in recent suicides and violence at the middle and high school levels.

Students who are harassed because they are PERCEIVED to be LGB are more likely to engage in high risk behavior.

Wisconsin 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

In comparison to their peers LGBTQ youth are

- more likely to be threatened at school;
- more likely to miss school because they feel unsafe;
- more likely to attempt suicide.

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network 2007 National School Climate Survey:

- LGBT students are five times more likely to skip school because of safety concerns than their straight peers.
- LGBT students are twice as likely to have no plans to pursue post-secondary education.

Positive Results from Support:

- When LGBT students are able to identify supportive staff they report a greater sense of safety, skip school less, and are more likely to attend college.
- Students in schools with a gay-straight alliance (GSA) report feeling safer, skipping school less, and feeling like they belong at their school than students in schools with no such clubs.
- Schools that have and promote a comprehensive non-discrimination policy hear fewer homophobic remarks and experience lower rates of verbal harassment.

The less we talk about it, the worse it gets.

January 28, 2011

**Blackhawk Technical College
Triangle Room
8:30-3:00**



The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE) offers trainings for school professionals and educator/student teams.

This training is designed to raise awareness about issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) youth, the impact of anti-gay bullying, and simple tools to increase school safety for all students.

Objectives for participants include the following:

- Gain specific tools and activities to address anti-gay bullying and harassment to start making it better right now for students in your school and district.
- Develop common responses to anti-gay slurs.
- Identify and develop concrete strategies to address barriers that prevent the creation of safe schools.
- Understand legal and ethical responsibilities to ensure safe schools for LGBTQ youth and all students.
- Learn the basics about the LGBTQ acronym.
- Identify and understand factors that place LGBTQ youth and targets of anti-gay harassment at greater risk for school failure, mental health and physical health issues.
- Hear first-hand from LGBTQ young people about their struggles, successes, and suggestions for building a safer school environment.

This training is for both teachers and students and student groups.

Cost: \$40 per participant, or \$25 if you are from a Comprehensive Youth Development (CYD) District Member.

To register, please go to www.myquickreg.com.

Content Questions? Please contact Mark Flottum, CESA #2 CYD Consultant – 608.758.6232 x326 or mflottum@cesa2.k12.wi.us

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