

Back-To-School Guide for Creating LGBT Inclusive Environments

While preparing for the school year, keep in mind that there are simple things you can do to ensure that your classroom or school is a safe and inclusive space for all students, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Here are some easy steps you can take. *Follow the links in each step to gather more information.*

1. Read the Safe Space Kit

The Safe Space Kit, Guide to Being an Ally to LGBT Students provides step-by-step instructions on how you can support LGBT students, educate about anti-LGBT bias and advocate for changes in your school. Download or purchase the [Safe Space Kit](#) today.



2. Display LGBT-inclusive Materials

Make your classroom or school inclusive by displaying LGBT inclusive materials. Hang the Safe Space poster or stickers, display posters for [GLBT History Month](#), [LGBT Pride Month](#) or other LGBT material. These will let students know that your classroom or school is an inclusive space all.



3. Incorporate LGBT Themed Materials into Curriculum

GLSEN's National School Climate Survey tells us that when asked whether they had been taught about LGBT people, history or events in school, a vast majority (87.3%) of students reported that such topics were not taught in any of their classes. You can make a difference. Include LGBT people and history into your curriculum.

Conduct a GLSEN [lesson](#) in your classroom. Access GLSEN's [Booklink](#), an online resource, to help you find grade appropriate LGBT themed or inclusive books and videos. Assign these readings to your students or show a video in the classroom. Suggest these resources for the school library.

4. Teach About Respect

You can use *GLSEN's Educators Guide* to the [Think Before You Speak](#) Campaign. The guide will show you how to teach your students about respect and anti-LGBT bias and language in schools. Show your class the PSA videos that feature Wanda Sykes and Hillary Duff and use these as a tool to teach about anti-LGBT language.

5. Participate in a GLSEN Action

Encourage your students to participate in one of GLSEN's Actions. You can support your students' [Day of Silence](#) (April) or [Ally Week](#) (October) efforts. Read the [Educators' Guide](#) to the The Day of Silence.

6. Plan for No Name-Calling Week

Each January schools across the country participate in No Name-Calling Week. (NNCW). You can find [20 NNCW lesson plans here](#) that you can use in your classroom.

7. Support LGBT Student Clubs

If your school already has a Gay-Straight-Alliance (GSA) or other LGBT Student Club, you can support the club's efforts. If your school doesn't have one yet, you can work with students to get one started. Check out the [Jump-Start Guides](#) for detailed information about creating and sustaining a successful GSA in your school.