



# Supporting LGBTQIA+ Communities in Schools

## Resources for Teachers

Resources for Teachers is part of the *Supporting LGBTQIA+ Communities at School* series. This series identifies strategies, action items, and resources to build relationships and advocacy with LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and communities. See also [Guidance for Administrators](#) and [Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth](#).

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Teachers are responsible for creating and maintaining safe and inclusive classroom environments for all students. By actively establishing a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students, teachers help foster a sense of acceptance that can lead to greater student outcomes both academically and socio-emotionally.

## How to support classroom culture

- Make a clear statement of support for LGBTQIA+ students every year. Create classroom rules or norms that foster a safe learning environment for all.
  - Share your pronouns at the beginning of the year. Ask your students about their pronouns and name.
  - Include “mirrors” and “windows” in your curriculum and physical classroom space. Mirrors reflect a student’s lived experience, while windows provide students the opportunity to understand experiences and perspectives of people with different identities.
  - Celebrate the unique strengths of your LGBTQIA+ students.
  - Prevent and intervene if students and/or staff engage in anti-LGBTQIA+ speech and/or bullying.
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## How to collaborate schoolwide

- Help create a queer rights club, support group, or Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). Offer your classroom as a meeting place.
- Include LGBTQIA+ students in conversations related to supporting them. Don't underestimate the power of student voice.
- Familiarize yourself with school resources that can support LGBTQIA+ students, and make resources available. Consider looking into local LGBTQIA+ organizations that provide services to youth and children.
- Collaborate with your school counselor, nurse, social worker, and/or other mental health supports to ensure that LGBTQIA+ students have access to gender-affirming mental health resources.

## How to participate in professional development and beyond

- Engage in professional development opportunities to further your understanding and continued support of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Support legislation that supports LGBTQIA+ students' rights.
- Advocate for curriculum that is inclusive of and uplifts the LGBTQIA+ community.

## Selected resources

- [7 Non-Negotiables for Supporting Trans & Nonbinary Students in Your Classroom](#) (Teach for America)
- [Queer Youth Advice for Educators: How to Respect and Protect Your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students](#) (What Kids Can Do Inc.)
- [Supporting LGBTQ Youth](#) (National Education Association)
- [Thriving, Not Just Surviving: How Teachers & Counselors Can Support Trans & Non-Binary Students at School](#) (MAEC)



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