

Quick Facts

- Sexual Orientation is “the overall term that is used to describe people’s physical and/or romantic attractions to other people.”
 - Four Main Populations:
 - **Heterosexual:** refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with someone of the opposite gender.
 - **Homosexual:** refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with someone of the same gender.
 - **Bi-sexual:** refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with the same OR another gender.
 - **Gender Identity:** refers to the internal sense that people have that they are female, male, or some variation of these. Gender Identity issues occur when their biological sex is not consistent with the gender in which they identify.
 - In ages 18-44:
 - 90.2% of Males & 90.3% of Females identify as heterosexual
 - 2.3% of Males and 1.3% of Females identify as homosexual
 - 1.8% of Males and 2.8% of Females identify as bisexual
 - 3.9% of Males and 4% of Females define their sexuality as “something else.”
- Only 48% of schools teach sexual orientation issues.**

Bibliography

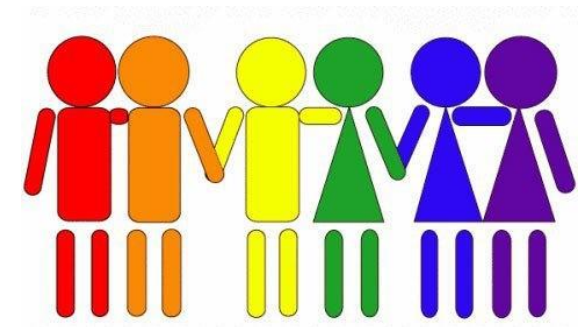
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Sexual Orientation

A teachers’ guide to addressing issues regarding discrimination, bias, and diversity within sexual orientation



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Discriminatory Language

- Students will hear and participate in name calling and harassment.
- “That’s so GAY.”
 - 75.4% of LGBT high school students reported hearing “faggot” or “dyke” frequently or often at school
 - 89.2% of LGBT high school students reported hearing “that’s so gay” or “you’re so gay” (often used to indicate that someone or something is stupid or worthless) frequently or often at school.
 - 18.6% of LGBT high school students reported hearing homophobic remarks from their teachers or other school staff.
- Language and speech which implies that any sexual orientation or gender expression is negative must not take in place in schools. However, it frequently does and therefore must be addressed at every occurrence.
- For resources, visit thinkb4youspeak.com

gay (gā) 1. there once was a time when all “gay” meant was “happy.” then it meant “homosexual.” now, people are saying “that’s so gay” to mean dumb and stupid. which is pretty insulting to gay people (and we don’t mean the “happy” people).
2. so please, knock it off. 3. go to ThinkB4YouSpeak.com



GLSEN

Identifying Your School Environment

- Understand that much of the discrimination in schools will go on right under the teacher’s nose. Homophobic remarks may be heard in passing periods, during class, lunch, or sporting events.
- Sexual orientation issues can impact the curriculum, student clubs and organization, individual interactions, and school function.
- Ask the school counselor their experience with LGBTQ students and assess the population, in general urban areas will be more open-minded than rural, but that does not translate to any less bullying or discrimination.



Preventive Education

- Teach student to acknowledge diversity in all forms: religion, sexual orientation, and race.
- Beliefs vary from student to student, stress importance of keeping open minds. Do not put down other’s beliefs just because they differ from your own.
- Build a curriculum that includes exposure to various family structures, such as those of LGBTQ parents. Students of the sexual minority must see their history or stories in literature. Even if these books are not required reading, always have them available.
- Create or develop student clubs for GSAs (Gay-Straight Alliance).
 - For resources on LGBT-inclusive curriculum and lesson plans, visit <http://glsen.org/educate/resources>



Addressing as a School

- Schools will take every complaint or name-calling, harassment, and discrimination seriously. **Verbal harassment is the most prevalent kind of abuse experienced in schools by LGBTQ students.**
- Acknowledge all family structures without favor in school settings.
- Schools cannot prevent the organization of students who identify as LGBTQ on any moral or religious grounds.
- Schools should provide training for counselors to help them understand sexual minorities and therefore be more equipped to assist the students.

From a Student’s Perspective

On average, LGBTQ students hear anti-gay remarks 26 times per day, which breaks down to about once every 14 minutes during the average school day (GLSEN).

Look at this as a cultural issue; imagine every 14 minutes hearing insults on your culture.