



## Cultivating Respect: Stopping Bullying to Create Safer Schools

### Background:

Sometimes considered to be a common rite of passage for youth, the effects of bullying and harassment have been devastating for LGBTQ youth in the US. News reports have been filled with tragic stories of young people who have died by suicide after experiencing bullying and harassment from their peers. Research shows that many others have experienced lower student achievement, attendance, and self-esteem as a result of an unwelcoming school environment.

PFLAG’s Cultivating Respect Safe Schools for All learning program provides participants with facts about bullying and harassment in schools. Through stories illustrating common themes and outcomes and research and statistics on the prevalence and manifestations of the behaviors, this session is a great way to engage any parent (or individual that knows and cares about a school-aged child) in a conversation about what was once considered to be an exclusively LGBTQ issue.

Every student deserves a safe school – this learning session helps people start making safe schools for more youth.

### Learning Session Outline:

- Learn about the paramount importance of properly defining bullying and harassment in schools and connect this definition to better outcomes in reducing bullying and harassment
- Review several cases of bullying and harassment in U.S. schools and use the stories to illustrate the profound impact anti-LGBTQ bias can have on young people
- Offer key facts and related data about bullying and harassment that provide participants the context they need to discuss these issues in schools
- Discuss the ways to start cultivating respect in schools at home, in schools, and at the district level
- Extra credit for participants: Information about PFLAG’s Claim Your Rights program, safe schools laws in specific states and information about how to get involved locally in safe schools efforts (optional)

<b>Recommended Session Length:</b>	90 minutes
<b>Target Audience:</b>	General audience, no experience with LGBTQ issues required.
<b>Participant Materials:</b>	<i>Cultivating Respect: Top 10 Ways to Make Schools Safe</i> and related materials
<b>Additional Information:</b>	This learning session is available in an interactive webinar format. 75 minute (in-person) and 60 minute (web) version also available. This session is often effective in engaging new and potential allies that have not participated in LGBT-specific events in the past.

For more information on this session, contact Jamie Henkel, Learning & Inclusion Manager, by e-mailing [jhenkel@pflag.org](mailto:jhenkel@pflag.org) or call (202) 467-8180 ext. 210.