



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 youth who identify as LGBTQ+ (and those who are perceived to be) 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 the tools they need to make the case for inclusive anti-bullying policies, support LGBTQ+ youth who are being bullied, and take action when the system fails to protect students. Through illustrative stories as well as research and statistics, this session is a great way to engage any parent (or individual that knows and cares about a school-aged young person) 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 having comprehensive, enumerated anti-bullying policies that expand our understanding of bullying and harassment beyond the classroom
- Review several cases of bullying and harassment in US 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 with educators and school personnel
- Discuss the ways to start cultivating respect in schools, at home, in schools, and at the district level
- Extra credit for participants: Information will be provided 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)

Recommended Session Length:	90 minutes
Target Audience:	General audience, no experience with LGBTQ+ issues required.
Participant Materials:	<i>Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for ALL</i> , online resource page
Additional Information:	This learning session is available in an interactive webinar format. 75 minute and 60 minute version available. This session is often effective in growing relationships with other network groups and engaging new and potential allies that have not participated in LGBTQ+ specific events in the past.

For more information on this session, contact Jamie Henkel, Learning & Inclusion Manager, by e-mailing jhenkel@pflag.org or call (202) 657-6998.

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