

# THE SCHOOL EXPERIENCES OF TODAY'S LGBT YOUTH

GLSEN's biennial *National School Climate Survey* documents the school experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Over 7,800 LGBT middle and high school students completed the latest survey. Here's what they reported.



## SCHOOLS ARE UNSAFE AND UNWELCOMING FOR THE MAJORITY OF LGBT STUDENTS.



Heard homophobic remarks frequently or often

**65%** heard homophobic remarks like "fag" or "dyke" frequently or often



Missed at least one day of school

**30%** missed at least one day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable



Verbally harassed at school in the past year

**85%** were verbally harassed in the past year

## MANY SCHOOLS LACK THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS FOR LGBT STUDENTS.

ONLY:

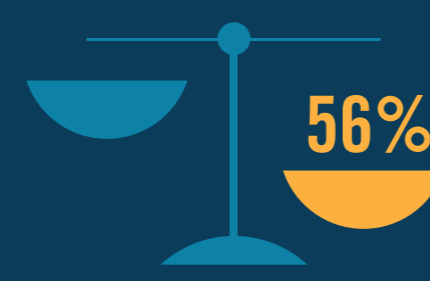
**50%** had a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at their school

**19%** were taught positive representations of LGBT people, history, or events (inclusive curriculum)

**10%** reported having a comprehensive anti-bullying policy that included both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression

**96%** had at least one supportive educator, but only **39%** had 11 or more

## MOST LGBT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE DISCRIMINATION AT SCHOOL.



56% of LGBT students experienced discriminatory school policies and practices.

Many LGBT students reported that their schools restrict student expression, prohibit LGBT curricular content, and enforce traditional gender norms:



**18%**

couldn't bring a same-gender date to school dances



**28%**

were disciplined for public displays of affection that were not similarly disciplined among non-LGBT students



**19%**

were prevented from wearing clothing deemed "inappropriate" based on their gender



## HOSTILE SCHOOL CLIMATES NEGATIVELY AFFECT EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND GENERAL WELL-BEING.

Experiencing higher levels of victimization and discrimination leads to **worse outcomes** for LGBT students:



### LOWER GPA

LGBT students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their sexual orientation had lower grade point averages (GPAs) than students who were less often harassed (2.8 vs. 3.3).

### LESS LIKELY TO PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE

LGBT students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their gender expression were less likely to report that they planned to pursue any post-secondary education (e.g., college or trade school) than those who experienced lower levels (92% vs. 96%).

### LOWER SELF ESTEEM

LGBT students who experienced LGBT-related discrimination at school had lower levels of self-esteem

## LGBT-INCLUSIVE SUPPORTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SCHOOL.

Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs), supportive educators, LGBT-inclusive curricula, and comprehensive anti-bullying policies all have positive benefits for LGBT students' success and well-being.



School climate for LGBT students has improved in the past decade, but more work still needs to be done.

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SHARE THIS GRAPHIC AND GO TO [GLSEN.ORG](http://GLSEN.ORG).

Research from: Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Palmer, N. A., & Boesen, M. J. (2014). *The 2013 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN.

To read the full report go to [glsen.org/nscls](http://glsen.org/nscls)

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