



Out, Safe & Respected
Your rights at school



Lambda Legal
making the case for equality

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE

Out, Safe & Respected

All of us are different in one way or another. In kindergarten and elementary school, teachers and other adults at school tell us that it's good to be different — that we're unique and special. But for many LGBTQ youth, that message changes after adolescence. Instead of being encouraged to embrace their individuality, many LGBTQ young people are harassed and discriminated against. Most adolescents struggle to navigate between self-expression and acceptance, but this process can be particularly difficult for LGBTQ youth, who are often denied equal treatment not only at school but in their communities as well.

In recent years, Lambda Legal has won a range of rights for LGBTQ youth. Our lawsuits secured precedents that force schools to protect LGBTQ students from harassment and allow youth to form GSAs. But these rights only matter when students, teachers and administrators put them to work. That can mean anything from encouraging teachers to design curricula that highlight the achievements of LGBT people, to standing up for a transgender student who is being harassed.

This kit is designed to help you know your rights at school and make sure they're respected, and to give you concrete ideas about how you can make a difference in your school and community. You have the right to be who you are. You have the right to be out, safe and respected at school.

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How to have a safe, inclusive, unforgettable prom

SEEK OUT: National Resources

How to contact other organizations working for LGBTQ youth

Contact Lambda Legal

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