

# Tips for School Staff

## *Navigating and Elevating GSA Support in Schools*



### Federal Equal Access Act of 1984

Under the federal Equal Access Act (EAA) of 1984, any school that permits non-curriculum related student groups must provide equal access to all student groups, and that includes equal access for GSAs.

LGBT students in schools with GSAs experience lower levels of victimization related to their sexual orientation and gender expression. -GLSEN 2017

LGBT students in schools with GSAs are less likely to feel unsafe because of their sexual orientation than those without a GSA (51.7% vs. 67.3%); and are less likely to miss school because of safety concerns (28.7% vs. 41.8%). -GLSEN 2017



### Center GSAs in Club Discussions

"We support all clubs, including Gay-Straight Alliances"



Work with other schools in your district to identify ways they helped educators and students start a GSA.



**Show your support for LGBTQ students, and students will be encouraged to ask you to sponsor their GSA! Support can look like displaying Safe Space Stickers, rainbow materials, using preferred pronouns, not assuming the sexual orientation of students when conversing, and ensuring class guidelines affirm diversity.**

- ▶ **Advertise the opportunity to initiate a GSA, just like any club, on morning announcements, morning video, visual posters, etc.**
- ▶ **Encourage that GSAs be listed on the extracurricular or club portion of the district website.**
- ▶ **Inform guidance counselors and social workers about GSAs. These individuals may know students who would be interested in joining.**
- ▶ **Counselors have the opportunity to say that there are services for all students, including students who are LGBTQ who have a right to peer support via GSAs.**
- ▶ **Encourage student government to include GSAs on their club roster.**

**Questions? Contact:**

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