



Free Help Surveying Your School

Safe Schools Coalition encourages Gay-Straight Alliances and other student groups to survey your peers. Use the **GSA Network/PFLAG Olympia Survey** on page two of this document to gather data for educating administrators, staff, parents and the student body about what is really happening at your school.

TIPS:

1. If your principal is worried, promise that you *won't* go to the media. Assure them that the survey is just for the purposes of finding out what's going on in order to help students and staff make your school a safer place, not to embarrass the school publicly. In fact, you can have anonymity for your school by sending us the data with no school identified on it!
2. Make sure you sample as many groups of students as possible (different grades, genders, ethnicities, etc.) and get as large a sample as you can.
3. Partner with other student groups to do that, if yours is small. Maybe your student government. Maybe a diversity club, an Amnesty International chapter or ACLU chapter. Maybe the football team. Be creative about using this as a chance to build alliances, even if it adds a month or two to your process. It will be worth it in the long run.
4. Invite students to use the back of the sheet to give concrete examples of what they have actually seen or experienced. The more concrete the better (for instance, "Graffiti in the 2nd floor girls' bathroom said '___ is a dyke' for two weeks after I reported it to the administration before it was finally painted over" or "A group of mostly juniors call special ed students 'faggots' almost every day in the cafeteria.").
5. Before you collect the data, you may want to consult with Jeff Loyer [jeff.loyer@pflag-olympia.org], a PFLAG-Olympia member who's volunteered to help GSAs with this kind of effort anywhere in the world – unless the volume of requests becomes too great.
6. After you collect the data, send the surveys to Jeff [jeff.loyer@pflag-olympia.org]. He will analyze the data for you and organize the findings into a simple PowerPoint presentation you can use to educate administrators, staff, parents and the student body about what is really happening at your school.
7. While Jeff analyzes your data, make a plan for how to "roll out" your findings. Administration first, probably. Make a date with your principal or some other administrator to share what you have learned. Ask them for time in a faculty meeting, next, but don't be surprised if they give you 15 minutes. You can do a lot in 15 minutes. Then, if you can, plan for how to share the information with parents and guardians and students.
8. Each time you share the data, allow time for the audience to talk about what *they* could/should do about it. Each group (administration, staff, families and students) will hopefully make some kind of promises about what they will do. You can report all those promises back to everyone at the end, to hold them to their commitments.



School Climate Survey

Your responses to this survey will be kept confidential.

sexual orientation: describes whether a person is romantically and/or physically attracted to members of the same sex (gay or lesbian), to members of the opposite sex (heterosexual) or to members of both sexes (bisexual).

gender identity: a person's understanding, definition or experience of their own gender regardless of biological sex.

transgender: a term for people who don't fit or identify with the gender roles assigned by society based on their biological sex.

Grade: 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Other: _____

Gender: Male Female Transgender Questioning Other: _____

Sexual Orientation: Gay/Lesbian Bisexual Straight/Heterosexual Questioning
 Other: _____

Race: (check all that apply)

American Indian or Alaska Native Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Asian
 Black/African-American Latino/Hispanic White/Caucasian Other: _____

1. Have you had education about lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) issues at school (presentations, speakers, classroom discussions)? yes no don't know
2. Do you know of any vandalism or graffiti being directed against students at your school because people think they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)? yes no don't know
3. Do you know of any physical attacks occurring against students at your school because people think they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT)? yes no don't know
4. During the past 12 months, how many times on school property were you harassed or bullied because you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender or someone thought you were?
 4 or more times 2 to 3 times 1 time 0 times
5. How often do you hear anti-LGBT slurs directed at specific students, teachers, or staff?
 several times a day once a day once a week once a month or less never
6. How often do you hear anti-LGBT slurs at school not specifically directed at an individual (example: "that's so gay" to mean something is bad)? several times a day once a day once a week once a month or less never
If you hear anti-LGBT slurs of any kind:
 7. teachers or staff step in: always often sometimes never
 8. you or other students step in: always often sometimes never
9. Do you know of students who openly identify as LGBT? yes no don't know
10. Do you know of teachers or staff who openly identify as LGBT? yes no don't know
11. If you wanted information and/or support about sexual orientation or gender identity, would you know where at school to go? yes no don't know

Strongly Disagree (circle one) Strongly Agree

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. At school, it's ok for girls to be masculine. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. At school, it's ok for boys to be feminine. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. I feel my school is a safe place for LGBT students, teachers, and staff. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. I feel safe at my school. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

16. Is there anything your school could do to make it safer for LGBT students, teachers, and staff?

Any other thoughts on these issues?