

Our Goal: *A Safe Learning Environment for Every Child, at Every School*

Students often experience harassment, bullying and physical violence at school. Those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning their sexuality, or *those who are perceived as different* by others are especially vulnerable.

The Safe Schools Project studied 110 cases of such harassment and violence in its groundbreaking five year research project, completed in 1998. Teen Health Surveys conducted by school districts have also documented harassment and fear of violence felt by sexual minority and heterosexual students alike.

Often educators may not have the understanding, tools or support to intervene and stop harassment from happening, or to investigate and respond appropriately.

All too often, gay and lesbian youth feel they are being blamed for the problem, and are left vulnerable to continuing danger.

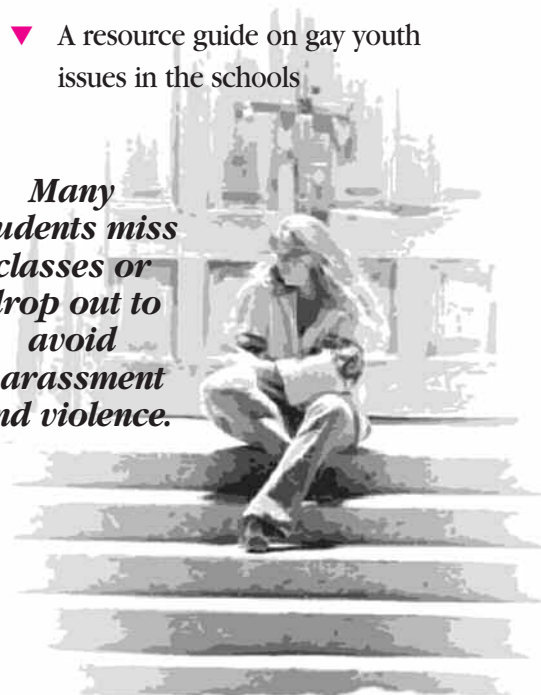
If you are experiencing anti-gay harassment in a Washington State school, or if your friend is, if you are a parent or a neighbor, or a teacher or school counselor, you are invited to report incidents of anti-gay harassment to the Safe Schools Coalition.

If you are an administrator, feel free to call us for consultation and technical assistance. You will be offered the help of our intervention team to assist you in ending the harassment.

We Offer:

- ▼ Telephone consultation and advice
- ▼ Safety plan for immediate protection
- ▼ Resources for local support
- ▼ Summary of legal duties of schools
- ▼ Support for the student and family
- ▼ Advocates to speak to your school administrators and other employees
- ▼ Training and education on understanding and addressing harassment, focusing on orientation-based bullying and violence
- ▼ A resource guide on gay youth issues in the schools

***Many
students miss
classes or
drop out to
avoid
harassment
and violence.***



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***Helping schools end anti-gay
bullying and harassment.***

Phone:
1-877-SAFE-SAFE

Safe Schools Coalition
August 2008

All Adults Share in the Safety of Our Children

What is the Safe Schools Coalition?

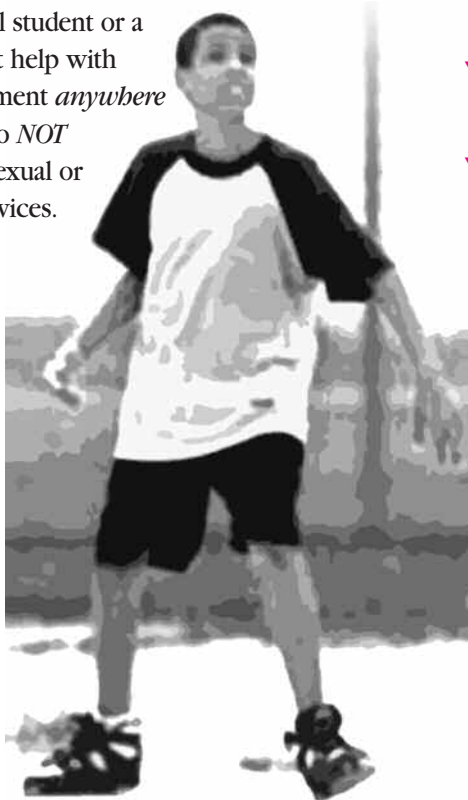
It is a partnership of *more than 70 community organizations*, school and government agencies, churches, and youth groups (*and hundreds of individuals*) working together.

We believe that every child and teen *deserves to feel welcome at school*. We work to end all bullying and violence, especially anti-gay harassment and other bias-based discrimination.

What is a Safe Schools Intervention?

It is a way for an individual student or a school administrator to get help with anti-gay bullying or harassment *anywhere* in Washington State. You do *NOT* have to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender to use our services.

“Coming home from school, the guys who harassed me at school drove by, shouting names and swerving the car at me. I had to jump to avoid being hit.”



First, you email the *Intervention Team* or call the **Intervention Hotline** (*Actually, it's the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center hotline; they help us with these calls – including the ones that aren't sexual assaults.*) If you need it, the telephone staff can help you to develop a temporary safety plan. Then, you let us know how to contact you. A volunteer *Intervention Specialist* will get back to you within twenty-four hours. With your *Intervention Specialist* you can plan what to do next. If you need it we can:

- ▼ meet with your principal (*with you or not*)
- ▼ meet with your family
- ▼ offer to provide training for your staff
- ▼ provide copies of other districts' inclusive policies and procedures
- ▼ suggest some great curricula, videos, posters and books
- ▼ recommend local support people and agencies in your town or county

Legal Rights and Responsibilities

Public schools should be accessible to all students. Each student has a right to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Courts have upheld that right.

Teacher and student training can help prevent harassment and costly lawsuits. *We can help!*

Harassment Problem?



Call us:

1-877-SAFE-SAFE

(1-877-723-3723, 24 hours a day)

or email us:

intervention@safeschoolscoalition.org

(24 hours; 7 days a week)



Non-crisis Information

206-632-0662 (Ext. 49)

questions@safeschoolscoalition.org



Safe Schools Coalition

c/o Public Health

10501 Meridian Ave N

Seattle, WA 98133

www.safeschoolscoalition.org