

Alphabet Soup

Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ Adolescents in the
High School Setting

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District 207

Maine West High School

Bullied 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpCvGRFV9TY>



Maine West High School District 207 Des Plaines, IL

<https://drive.google.com/a/maine207.org/file/d/0B3wFeDVLiJPHME9tZ2JhbEptSnM/view?pli=1>

Background

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning students make up 5-6% of our schools.
- 85% of students surveyed reported being verbally harassed in their school due to their sexual orientation.
- 41% of students report being physically harassed and for 22% the victimization escalated to assault.
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of LGBTQ students missed at least one day of school in the past month due to safety concerns at school.

* 2013 National School Climate Survey, produced by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

Activity 1

What is the relationship between educational equity or diversity and academic achievement? Share your thoughts with someone sitting next to you.

Psychological Effects

LGBTQ students report higher levels of depression and lower levels of self-esteem than their non-LGBTQ peers.

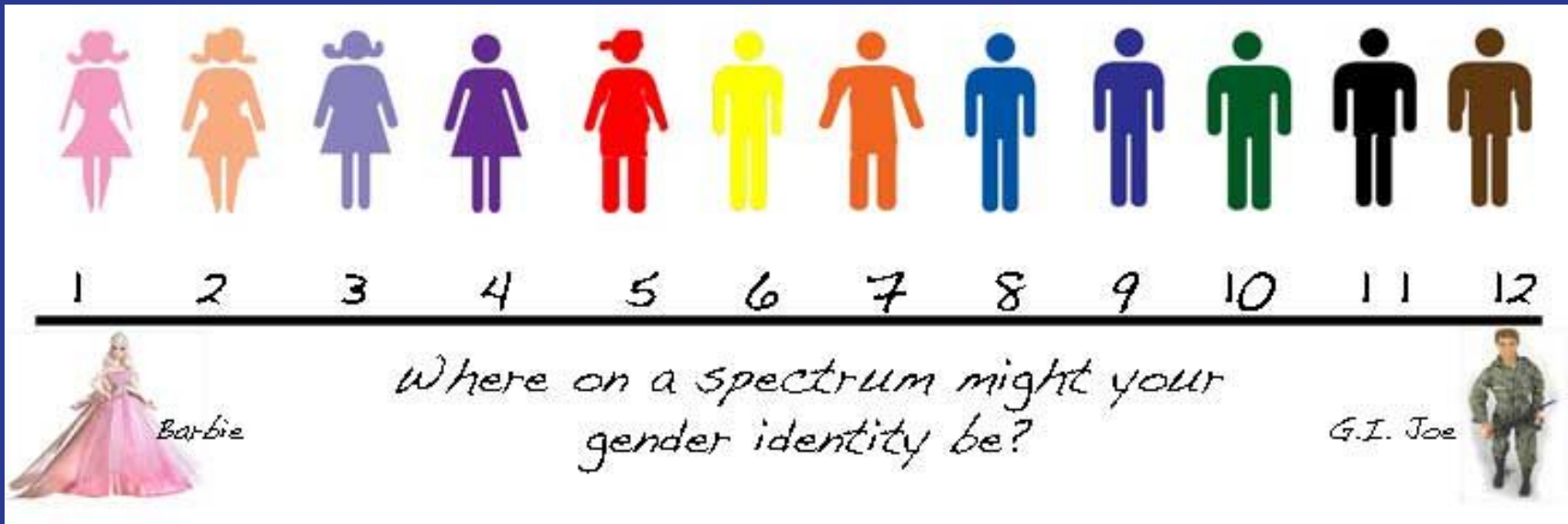
LGBTQ Students are at Risk for:

- Substance Abuse
- Harassment/Bullying
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Academic Issues
- Attendance Issues
- Homelessness
- Suicide

Understanding Gender Traditional Binary



Gender Continuum - not binary



Overarching Legal Issues That Affect All Schools:

- Harassment
- Privacy
- Freedom of Speech
- Gender Expression
- Clubs
- Events

Harassment

- U.S. Constitution
- Title IX



Freedom of Speech

- U.S. Constitution
- Tinker v. Des Moines

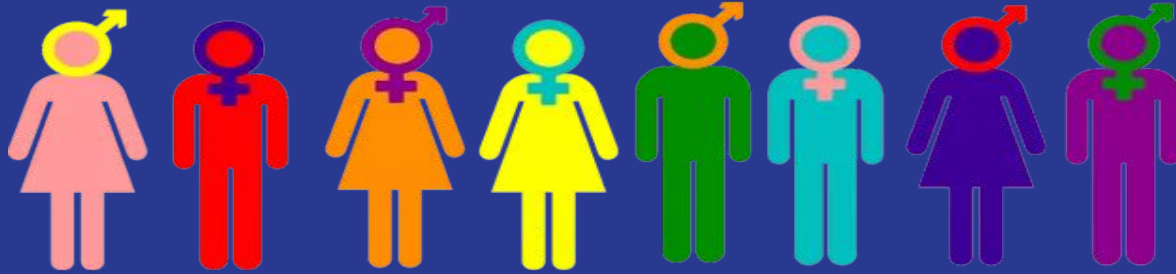


Privacy



US Constitution

Gender Expression



US Constitution
Title IX
State Laws

Prom, Homecoming and Other School Events



US Constitution; First Amendment

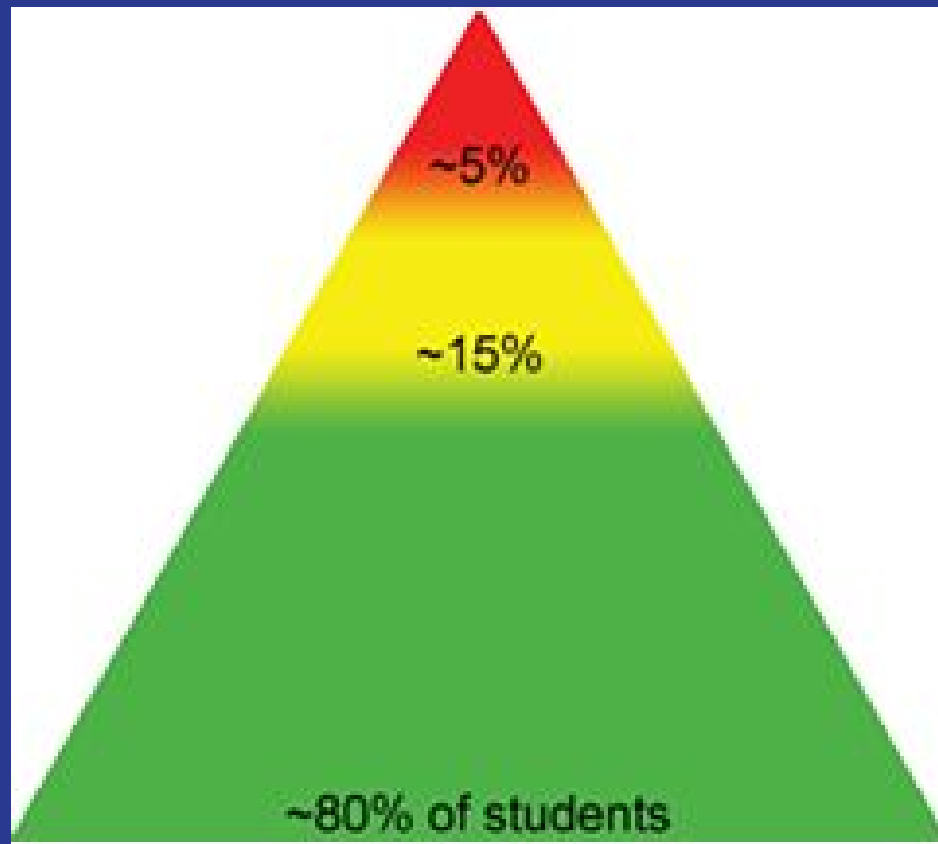


GSA

Federal Equal Access Act

School Climate

Talk to someone next to you about the 6 areas we just discussed and what is occurring within your school or district.



Tier One Interventions

- Staff Development
- School Climate
- Anti - Bullying Policies that include LGBTQ terminology
- Posters throughout school
- School Curriculum that is inclusive
- Day of Silence, Allies Day

Tier 2 Interventions

- GSA
- Parent Nights for LGBTQ parents
- Specific trainings for groups of teachers
- Support Group for LGBTQ teens that specifically addresses the issues confronting them

Tier 3

- Support Groups
- Individual Counseling
- Specific interventions for 1 student

Current Legal Issues

- SIS
- Locker Rooms/Bathrooms
- Pronoun/Name Usage
- Athletic Teams/Clubs/Organizations

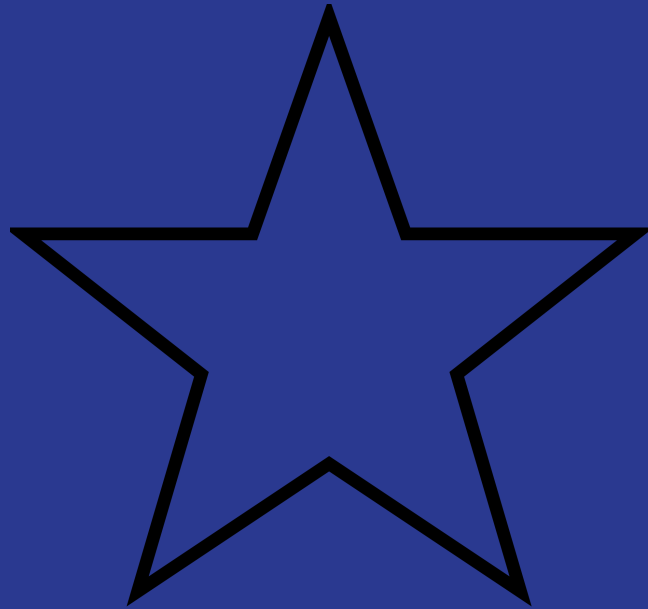
Alphabet Soup

- Students are invited after coming out to a staff member
- Specified curriculum that addresses common issues
- Includes student generated topics

Gender in Box



Star Activity



Concluding Comments



It Gets Better

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIQdteemhmc>

Activity

In a small group you will be provided with several questions. This activity will give you an opportunity to practice answering questions that you may or may not have had a lot of experience with. With your partner or group practice answering these questions. At the end we will share our experiences.