

**Homophobia and Schools**

According to Parents & Families of Gay, Lesbian

* LGBT students at schools with comprehensive policies on bullying and harassment are much more likely to report harassment to school authorities who, in turn, were more likely to respond effectively.
* LGBT students are twice as likely to say that they were not planning on completing high school or going on to college.
* Nearly a fifth of students are physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and over a tenth because of their gender expression.
* About two-thirds of LGBT students reported having ever been sexually harassed (e.g., sexual remarks made, being touched inappropriately) in school in the past year.
* The average GPA for students who were frequently physically harassed because of their sexual orientation was half a grade lower than that of other students.

Schools should be a young person’s primary center for learning, growing, and building a foundation for success in the world. Growing up and getting through high school can be challenging for any student, but LGBT youth too often face additional obstacles of harassment, abuse, and violence.

**What can we do?**

Anyone can make schools safer for LGBT students no matter what their role is; Students, Teachers, Administrator or Guidance counselor or a Parent. PFLAG offers 5 opportunities to create change for each of these roles here: <https://www.pflagnyc.org/safeschools/fiveways>

We would like to highlight at least one of those for each of the roles:

* Students: Watch what you say: Don’t use words associated with being LGBT as euphemisms for stupid and explain to friends and peers who do, why they shouldn’t.
* Teachers: Stop hate speech in your classroom. Speak out if you hear a student in your class or in the halls using words like “fag”, “dyke”, or “gay” as put-downs or insults.
* Administrator or Guidance Counselors: Meet with teachers and parents to help them learn about the issues that their students, children, or their children’s peers may be facing as a LGBT person.
* Parents: Let your children know that you accept them, their friends, and their peers, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Make your home a supportive and open space.

<http://www.pflagnyc.org/safeschools/statistics>

<https://www.pflagnyc.org/safeschools/fiveways>

<https://www.pflagnyc.org/safeschools/moreinfo>