

## Everyone Can Do Something:

A message from  
PFLAG National



For too many of our youth, attending school can be a frightening experience. And for parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators, providing a safe environment for young people can seem like a daunting task, especially when working to make classrooms—and all school facilities and programs—fair and safe for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) students.

Most adults would agree that what they want is for all youth to have the same opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed as every other student in their school. But far too often, young people who are LGBTQ+ (or perceived to be) are taunted, harassed, and bullied, sometimes relentlessly. And for adults, it's often difficult to know where to begin tackling the issues that lead to bullying behavior and discrimination in school.

This guide—part of our *Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All* program—outlines, in easy-to-understand language and simple guidelines, the critical role that adults play in making schools a place to learn, rather than a place to fear. It also lays out a process of recognizing what steps to take to get there, and how to take them.

Anti-LGBTQ+ name-calling, derogatory remarks in the classroom, policies that prevent youth from using facilities that align with their gender, and taunts and threats against students have a very real impact on the entire school community. A student with an LGBTQ+ family member or friend is just as offended, uncomfortable, and unable to learn in such environments as students who are, themselves, LGBTQ+. No one is immune from attacks on their family, and everyone benefits when adults speak up and take action against those attacks.

Please take a moment to review the ten simple and powerful steps outlined in this publication to help make your local school community safer. As adults and leaders in our communities, it is time to work for classrooms and schools where students can learn free from fear, and are protected from discrimination, harassment, and bullying.

To learn more, visit [pflag.org/safeschools](https://pflag.org/safeschools).