

## Current Conditions for LGBTQ Youth in Orange County Schools:

*A snapshot of LGBTQ students' mental health, perceptions of school climate, and more*

Using data from the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), researchers affiliated with the LGBTQ Youth Research and Advocacy Project have created [county fact sheets and narratives outlining rates of bullying, perceptions of school climate, substance use, and mental health among LGBT youth](#) and their peers in public schools. Use the links below to access data on Orange County Schools.

- [Orange County LGBT Narrative](#)
- [Health and Safety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth \(LGB\) in Orange County Public Schools with California Comparisons](#)
- [Health and Safety of Transgender Youth in Orange County Public Schools with California Comparisons](#)
- [Health and School Safety among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Youth in Orange County Schools](#)

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## Creating LGBTQ-Inclusive Learning Environments:

*Some starting points for educators looking to support LGBTQ youth*

Founded by educators in 1990, the [Gay Lesbian Straight Educator Network \(GLSEN\)](#) works to create affirming learning environments for LGBTQ youth. Visit GLSEN's [Four Supports webpage](#) to learn about four main ways to cultivate a safe, supportive school.

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This [guide by GLSEN](#) advises teachers and school mental health providers on best practices to advocate for LGBTQ students.

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USC's Rossier School of Education's [Students and Gender Identity: A Toolkit for Schools](#) outlines concrete steps for creating inclusive classrooms, strategies for addressing common questions and misconceptions about gender identity, and key terms educators should know.

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A 2011 publication [Queer Youth Advice for Educators](#) compiles the experiences, wisdom, and advice of thirty LGBTQ youth from across the U.S. It seeks to guide educators to make schools more safe, respectful, and inclusive for youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

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[Teachers as LGBTQ Allies](#) includes a list of key terminology, ideas for creating LGBTQ-inclusive curricula at all levels, helpful FAQs, resources to share with students, and more.

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Orange County school districts and school sites can request presentations on LGBTQ inclusivity considerations from the [Orange County Community Counseling and Supportive Services \(CCSS\) program](#). Contact Service Chief Lu Pham to request a presentation.

## Creating LGBTQ-Inclusive Learning Environments in Elementary Education:

GLSEN's [LGBTQ Visibility and Integration in Elementary Schools](#) addresses why inclusion must begin at the elementary level and outlines best practices for administrators and faculty.

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GLSEN's [Ready, Set, Respect Elementary Toolkit](#) prepares educators to teach about respect and includes lesson plans that focus on name-calling, bullying and bias, LGBTQ-inclusive family diversity, and gender roles and diversity.

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The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's [Welcoming Schools Program](#) provides LGBTQ and gender-inclusive professional development trainings, lesson plans, booklists, and resources specifically designed for elementary educators and youth-serving professionals. The program uses an intersectional, anti-racist lens dedicated to actionable policies and practices.

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HRC's Welcoming Schools program has free resources for elementary educators, including:

- [Resources for Gender and LGBTQ Inclusive Elementary Schools](#)
- [Responding to Children's Questions on LGBTQ Topics](#)
- [LGBTQ Definitions for Adults and Elementary Students](#)
- [Great Diverse Books for Every Elementary School Library](#)
- [Common-Core Aligned Lesson Plans for Creating Welcoming Schools](#)

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## Developing an LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum:

### *Resources for crafting LGBTQ-inclusive materials for all students*

#### Developing an LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum – The Benefits:

This [2006 California State Schools Coalition Research Brief](#) provides data illustrating how including LGBTQ issues in the curriculum promotes safer school climates for *all* students.

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GLSEN's research report [Teaching Respect: LGBT Inclusive Curriculum and School Climate](#) highlights how inclusive curricula can positively affect LGBTQ students' experiences in school.

#### Developing an LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum – History and Social Sciences Classrooms:

[The ONE Archives Foundation](#) offers lesson plans, professional development opportunities, past presentations, and other materials to make LGBTQ history visible and accessible in K-12 classrooms.

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[Teaching LGBTQ History](#) provides resources and lesson plans for teaching LGBTQ history and fulfilling the requirements of California's Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act (FAIR Act).

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[The Content, Literacy, and Citizenship Project](#) delivers video, lesson plans, primary sources, reading lists, and other California-specific resources for implementing LGBTQ-inclusive history and social science in K-12 classrooms.

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[California Elementary school lesson plans for LGBTQ history](#) offer ideas for creating LGBTQ-inclusive social science curricula in K-5 classrooms.

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[Making the Framework FAIR](#), a report sponsored by the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, proposes enriching California's K-12 History-Social Sciences framework by giving greater attention to same-sex sexuality, sexual identity, and gender diversity.

### Developing an LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum – Health Classrooms:

The [CA Health Education Framework Course on Growth, Development, & Sexual Health](#) offers guidance on how to teach comprehensive sexual health education that is inclusive and representative of LGBTQ+ students, as required by the California Healthy Youth Act.

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Gender Spectrum's publication [Principles for Gender Inclusive Puberty and Health Education](#) outlines a comprehensive approach to gender for puberty health educators.

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California's Adolescent Sexual Health Work Group (ASHWG) presents their [Student's Rights and Resources Template](#), a customizable tool that maps out locations and contact information for sexual and reproductive health clinics, LGBTQ centers, and mental health services, as well as outlining students' rights to confidentially access health care. ASHWG also offers [instructions for customizing the template](#).

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The ACLU's [Grades K-6 California Healthy Youth Factsheet](#) explains that, by California law, any education provided regarding human development and sexuality in K-6 schools must teach about gender, gender expression, gender identity, and the harm of negative stereotypes.

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## Combating Bullying and Harassment:

### *Facts and tips to foster more positive educational environments*

Mental Health America's factsheet [Bullying: LGBT Youth](#) helps educators understand the impacts bullying has on LGBT youth and gives concrete steps for creating safe, respectful learning environments.

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ACLU Southern California's [guide to the rights of LGBTQ students in California schools](#) describes students' legal protections and means of redress for harassment.

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On their webpage [Antibullying, Harassment: Policy, Procedure](#) The California Department of Education compiles policies and complaint procedures for LGBTQ students, families, and educators

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## Anti-Bias Training and Climate Improvement for Your School or District:

### *Programs to produce safe and welcoming schools*

Southern California-based [Kinder Future](#) provides school districts with LGBTQ liaison services that support districts' efforts to cultivate learning environments that are safe and welcoming for all students.

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The Anti-Defamation League offers [No Place for Hate, a student-led climate improvement program](#) that fights bias and bullying.

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## Professional Development Opportunities for Educators:

### *Online and in-person trainings for educators*

The American Psychological Association's [Respect Online Course](#) offers three self-paced modules that provide school staff with the knowledge and skills to make schools safe and supportive for LGBTQ students.

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The Trevor Project's [Lifeguard Workshop](#) is a free online learning module with a video, curriculum, and teacher resources for middle school and high school classrooms. The Trevor Project also offers [trainings designed for adults who work with youth](#) that discuss LGBTQ competent suicide prevention.

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The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Welcoming Schools Program offers [virtual and in-person professional development trainings](#).

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## Supporting Trans and Nonbinary Students:

### *Targeted resources for helping historically underserved populations thrive*

[Schools in Transition](#) is an in-depth guide for educators looking to create more consciously inclusive spaces for trans children in their classroom.

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The ACLU and GLSEN's guide [Know Your Rights: A Guide for Trans and Gender Nonconforming Students](#) offer guidance about the legal protections in place in U.S. schools for trans and gender nonconforming students.

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[The Gender Unicorn](#) is a helpful resource for discussing gender with students. Available in fifteen different languages.

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## Supporting LGBTQ Students of Color:

### *Targeted resources for helping historically underserved populations*

GLSEN's [Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color](#) is a series of four research reports that examines the school experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Black, Latinx, and Native and Indigenous LGBTQ youth. Each report includes information on the experiences of LGBTQ students of color in middle and high school, examining indicators of negative school climate as well as supports and resources. Access each report and related resources at the links below:

- [glsen.org/AAPI](https://www.glsen.org/AAPI)
- [glsen.org/black](https://www.glsen.org/black)
- [glsen.org/latinx](https://www.glsen.org/latinx)
- [glsen.org/native](https://www.glsen.org/native)

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GLSEN's [Supporting LGBTQ Students of Color](#) showcases interviews with educators from across the country discussing concrete ways they support LGBTQ students of color.

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[This resource list from Towson University](#) compiles contact information for relevant organizations and hotline numbers that support the health and well-being of LGBTQ students of color.

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[Supporting Black LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#), a blog post from the Trevor Project, discusses intersecting identities and offers tips for supporting Black and Brown LGBTQ youth in the current moment.

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[LGBTQ Students of Color Speak Up](#) covers a 2018 event in which LGBTQ students of color spoke about their intersecting identities and offered recommendations for supporting queer youth of color in educational settings.

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## Supporting GSAs and Other LGBTQ Student Groups: *Resources to cultivate vibrant student groups*

A GSA (which can stand for Gay-Straight Alliance or Genders & Sexualities Alliance) is a student-founded, student-run club, but supportive faculty and staff can be helpful. Visit the [GSA Network of California](#) to learn more.

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The ACLU's [How to Start a GSA](#) provides step-by-step instructions for students looking to start a GSA. As an educator, you can disseminate this resource and/or act as a sponsor.

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The Los Angeles LGBTQ Center's [Community Action Network \(CAN\)](#) provides trainings and leadership workshops to GSAs and other LGBTQ clubs on campus.

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Live Out Loud has compiled [lesson plans](#) on a range of topics to jumpstart meetings of GSAs or other diversity groups. These are also suitable for classroom use.

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## College Scholarships and Admissions: *Supporting LGBTQ students' transition to higher education*

Help college-bound students find financial support with this [information-rich list of college scholarships for LGBTQ students](#). The list also addresses LGBTQ-specific issues in the college application process.

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Help college-bound students research the relative LGBTQ-friendliness of prospective schools by using the [Campus Pride Index](#). This searchable database offers ratings of participating colleges and universities' climate and policies towards LGBTQ students.

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## Current Conditions for LGBTQ Youth in California: *Data-driven accounts of LGBTQ youths' experiences in California schools*

The [California LGBTQ Youth Report](#) provides data, state laws, and best practices related to creating safe and inclusive K-12 schools for LGBTQ students in California. The report was produced by the Human Rights Campaign in collaboration with the Association of California School Administrators, the California Parent Teachers Association, the California Teachers Association and several other statewide educator associations.

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GLSEN's 2019 [California Snapshot – National School Climate Survey](#) provides state-specific data that allows advocates, educators, administrators, and policymakers, among others, to evaluate school climate in California, and to advocate for safer and more inclusive school environments for LGBTQ students.



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WestEd's 2019 report [Understanding the Experiences of LGBTQ Students](#) describes the school experiences of LGBTQ students by examining two years of California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) data from approximately 800,000 secondary school students. The data reveals LGBTQ students' perceptions of school supports, school safety, school engagement, academic performance, and mental health.

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This Kidsdata issue brief on [Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth in California](#) reveals that across many indicators of health and well-being, lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in California reported negative behaviors and consequences at about twice the rate of straight youth in 2018.

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A 2017 study from the Williams Institute [LGBTQ Youth in California's Public Schools](#) explores disparities in school experiences, school performance, and well-being of LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ youth in California, as well as disparities between LGBTQ youth in rural and urban areas across the state.

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