

*"I feel so unsafe when I'm at school. I hear the word 'gay' used as an insult so often, I always feel like there's something wrong with me even though I know there isn't."*

— Dani R., Michigan

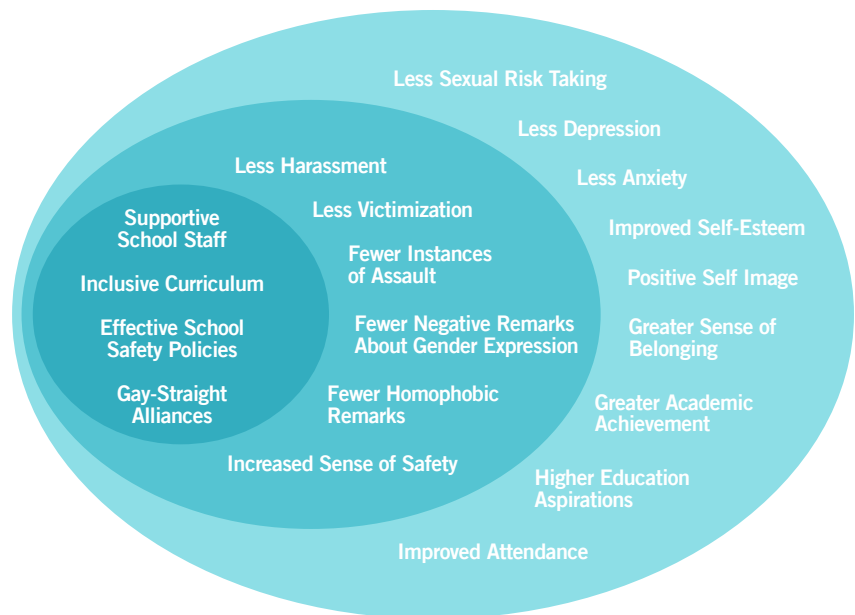


## GLSEN's LGBT Safe Schools Initiative

GLSEN has entered into a five-year partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the critical mission of improving the health outcomes of youth at highest risk for HIV and STDs. This work is founded on the association between hostile school environments and increased risk taking, which disproportionately impacts LGBT youth, particularly LGBT youth of color. The LGBT Safe Schools Initiative is focused on ensuring that each school provides a safe and welcoming environment where all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, can fully participate in the learning process and have the opportunity to reach their potential. We will achieve this by applying our twenty years of experience and evidence-based resources to developing the capacity of 18 school districts across the country to implement policies and train staff members to create schools where all students can thrive.

### RESEARCH SAYS

- 8 out of 10 LGBT students experience verbal, physical or sexual harassment in their school because of their sexual orientation\*
- Nearly 1 out of 2 LGBT students felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation\*
- More than 1 out of 3 LGBT students felt unsafe because of their gender expression\*
- Between 2006-2009, HIV infection rates increased 34% among young MSM (men who have sex with men) overall, and 48% among young, black MSM specifically\*\*



## GLSEN's Commitment

- Build the capacity of local experts who can lead trainings
- Provide schools with relevant materials and research
- Support collaboration within and between districts
- Offer a multi-year collaboration to each partner site
- Promote anti-bullying and harassment policy and legislation
- Promote policy to support transgender and gender nonconforming students
- Promote non-discrimination policy and legislation
- Support LGBT-inclusive Youth Risk Behavior Survey

## Potential Partner Sites

- Baltimore, MD
- Broward County, FL
- Chicago, IL
- Delaware
- Detroit, MI
- District of Columbia
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Memphis, TN
- Miami-Dade County, FL
- New York, NY
- Newark, NJ
- Orange County, FL
- Palm Beach County, FL
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Seattle, WA

\*The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in Our Schools

\*\*Prejean J, et al "Estimated HIV incidence in the United States, 2006-2009" PLoS ONE 2011; 6(3): e17502.

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