

How to have a successful high school GSA

Support/Resources:

- ✓ Create a diverse school library, including books, magazines, and VHS/DVD's
- ✓ Start a discussion group (*Topics: School Safety, Coming-Out, Current Events*)
- ✓ Provide resources to group members, administrators, teachers, and counselors
- ✓ Host guest speakers on LGBTQA issues (*Issues: LGBT History, Safety in Schools, LGBT Health*)

Social/Services:

- ✓ "Bring a Friend (or Family)" Night
- ✓ Community service or outreach (*Examples: "School Clean-up Day" or Food Drive*)
- ✓ Host a weekly or monthly Coffee House
Advertise this event around school to give LGBTQA-interested people a safe space
- ✓ Movie Night
Sponsor (or co-sponsor) a movie night with LGBT-themes

Education/Advocacy:

- ✓ "Safe Space" Campaign
Award faculty, staff, and administrators with "Safe Space" stickers or magnets
- ✓ National Day of Silence (*See more informational materials on www.dayofsilence.org or www.glsen.org*)
- ✓ Document incidents of homophobia in your school
Present documented incidents of homophobia (anti-LGBT slurs, attacks, etc.) to the administration
- ✓ Sponsor a Diversity Day or Awareness Day
- ✓ Meet with all elected officials in your school, city, or county
Talk to elected officials about passing non-discrimination laws, policies, and other LGBT issues
- ✓ Write letters to your school newspaper
- ✓ Work at getting sexual orientation/gender identity in your school's non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies
- ✓ Host a Staff-Development Program for your high school
Educate school staff on LGBT issues affecting students

Network with region/state GSA groups

Networking with other GSA groups in your region or in the state offers resource and idea sharing and the opportunity to collaborate on activities, events, and speakers. Contact prideNet (info@iowapridenetwork.org) for ways that we can help you network and introduce you to other GSA's in your area.

- ▶ Create a **Mission Statement**
- ▶ Host a **Website** with information about events, meetings, etc.
- ▶ **Advertise** broadly in your school
- ▶ **Co-sponsor** events with other school organizations
- ▶ Organize **sub-groups** to address different needs within the greater-LGBTQA community
- ▶ Attend statewide or regional **conferences** on LGBTQA issues
- ▶ Help other local and/or regional high schools start **Gay-Straight Alliances**
- ▶ Help with other **LGBTQA events** and **initiatives** on the statewide or regional level

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network or GLSEN has an extensive library of useful information. We highly encourage students to utilize this resource. Simply go to www.glsen.org and click on "Library." Once there type in your keyword and you'll instantly be connected to hundreds of documents aimed at helping you and your GSA.