GLSEN®
GAY, LESBIAN & STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK

# The Educator's Guide to LGBT Pride

Every year, in the month of June the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community celebrates Pride Month. While including positive representations of LGBT history and people in the curriculum is most effective when it is regular practice, June provides an opportunity to connect topics with current events and celebrations. GLSEN's National School Climate Survey consistently finds that students with inclusive curricula have a greater sense of belonging to their school community, hear fewer homophobic remarks and are less likely to be victimized or feel unsafe at school than those without inclusive curriculum. Including LGBT topics in your classroom year round helps make a school a safer place for all students. Unfortunately only 11.7% of LGBT students report that they learn positive things about LGBT related topics.

## You can make a difference!

Celebrate LGBT Pride Month by highlighting historical LGBT leaders, discussing the LGBT movement or by simply creating a display for your classroom. When curriculum is inclusive of LGBT content, it serves as a mirror for LGBTQ youth. It not only validates the existence of an often invisible population but also reinforces the value of LGBT people. Teaching about LGBTQ-related issues and incorporating LGBTQ people in the curriculum provides all students a window into a world they might not otherwise have access to, raising awareness and promoting a general tone of acceptance.

## Post Signs:

Create LGBT affirming displays in your hallways. Use one of the six "Think Before You Speak" posters available online at

**www.thinkb4youspeak.com**

## Include LGBT History in Your Lessons:

Use GLSEN's *Unheard Voices*, an oral history and curriculum project, to discuss LGBT history in class. Each interview is accompanied by a backgrounder with discussion questions and activities for educators, and a student reading with biographical information about the interview subject and historical background on the era.

**www.glsen.org/unheardvoices**

## Increase Knowledge:

Use GLSEN's *Talking the Talk: LGBT Terminology* to discuss language in the classroom. This will act as a foundation to begin discussing LGBT issues in class. This activity is included in GLSEN's Safe Space Kit, which offers strategies for preparing students, faculty, and staff to be effective allies to LGBT students.

**www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1641.html**

## Read LGBT Themed/ Inclusive Books in Class:

The American Library Association provides a listing of LGBT-inclusive texts called The Rainbow Book List. It is an annual bibliography of quality books with significant and authentic LGBT content recommended for people from birth through eighteen years of age.

**http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/archives/953**

## Teach Respect:

Use GLSEN's *Think B4 You Speak Educator's guide* along with public service announcements featuring Wanda Sykes and Hilary Duff and the NBA. Watch the PSA's online or request a free DVD and set of six *Think B4 You Speak Posters* from GLSEN.

**www.thinkb4youspeak.com**

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