



Educational Champion Training

MODULE 13:

Supporting LGBTQ Youth

Developmental pathways



- Remember that LGBTQ youth follow developmental pathways similar to all youth.
- Social and emotional development provides an important foundation for success in school. Let the youth know you are interested in how they are doing by asking about things like:
 - Future plans, college, and career paths
 - Peer groups and friends at school

Open lines of communication



- Let the youth know that they can talk to you about what is going on at school around issues of sexual identity:
 - Ask specific questions about friend groups or who they hang out with at school.
 - Be specific when asking them questions about people they like.
 - Ask them if they feel supported at school.
 - Ask them what would make them feel more supported at school.
 - Remember: Tell the youth that you care about them and respect what they are saying.

Be supportive



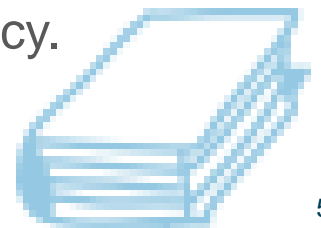
- Youth rejected on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity are more likely to attempt suicide, report high levels of depression, use illegal drugs, and be at high risk for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.
- If you aren't sure how to support the emotional well-being of your LGBTQ youth, here are some things you can try:
 - Talk with your child about their LGBT identity.
 - Respond affectionately when your child tells you they are LGBTQ.
 - Support your child's identity and gender expression even if you feel uncomfortable.
 - Advocate for your child in school if they are harassed or bullied based on their LGBT identity.
 - Make sure other family members respect your child.
 - Bring your child to LGBTQ events.
 - Welcome your child's LGBTQ friends and partners into your home.



Bullying & harassment



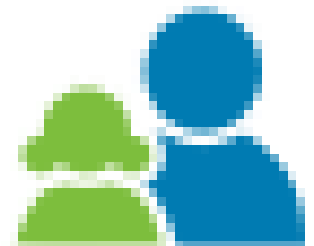
- Remember that LGBTQ youth often experience increased prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and social isolation at school, which can affect their health, mental health, and education. Remaining engaged with how things are going at school can help.
- Schools have a duty to protect LGBTQ students from bias and discrimination. This includes bullying based on how a student behaves or dresses.
- If a student is being harassed, report the harassment. Schools are required to have an anti-harassment policy in place, and a clear process for filing complaints about violations of this policy.



Privacy protections



- Understand the privacy protections that students have around sexual orientation and gender identity.
- If an LGBTQ student appears out to some people at school, school officials still cannot tell anyone else about the student's sexual orientation or gender identity without the student's permission, including the student's family, teachers, or other parties.



Access resources & support



- Talk with your mentor about resources and support at the student's school and in the community.
 - support groups,
 - on-campus student clubs (such as the Gay-Straight Alliance),
 - or community organizations.

Alliance organizations



- Find out if the youth's school has a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) – a student club that provides a space for students to promote awareness for LGBTQ issues through activities and discussions.
 - If the school does have a GSA, talk to the youth about joining.
 - If the school does not yet have a GSA, ask the youth if they are interested in forming one. Here is a resource that might be helpful: <http://www.gsanetwork.org/resources/building-your-gsa>

My Goals:



What I will do:

How often I will do this:

Resources.



This PowerPoint, Tip Sheets, Mentoring Modules, and supporting materials can be found at: www.foster-ed.org.

If you have questions about the materials, please contact:
info@fostered.org

Other Resources:

- *ACLU LGBT Project, aclu.org/safeschools*
- *GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network), glsen.org*